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No. 6.

ART. I.—*American Medical Association. Proceedings of the Eighth Annual Meeting, held in Philadelphia, Pa., May 1 to 4, 1855.*
(Specially Reported for the New Jersey Medical Reporter.)

On the morning of Tuesday, May 1st, at 11 o'clock, the Association assembled in the spacious hall of the Musical Fund building, and at 11½ A. M. was called to order by the President, Dr. C. A. Pope, of St. Louis, the Vice-Presidents taking their seats on either hand of the President. The ex-Presidents were invited to take seats on the platform.

Drs. E. S. Lemoine, of Mo., and Francis West, of Pa., took their seats as Secretaries.

Dr. Isaac Hays, of Philadelphia, chairman of the Committee of Arrangements, on behalf of the Profession of Philadelphia, extended a cordial greeting to the members of the Association. Dr. Hays then stated that 337 delegates had registered their names.

The Chair announced the business first in order, to be the calling of the roll.

It was suggested that each delegate should rise to his feet as his name was called, which was approved.

The following list embraces the names of all delegates and members in attendance during the entire session of the Association.

MAINE.—Drs. A. J. Fuller, G. S. Palmer, Alpheus F. Page, N. P. Monroe, Jas. C. Weston, Nathan Emerson, H. N. Page, J. P. Dickinson—8.

NEW HAMPSHIRE.—S. Cummings, Thos. H. Marshall, D. T. Parker, J. Crosby, Henry B. Brown, Frederick Boyden, E. R. Peaslee—7.

VERMONT.—Geo. F. Elliott, I. Hinckley, J. Perkins, C. Clark—4.

MASSACHUSETTS.—Henry Willard, Wm. M. Cornell, E. P. Eastman, N. Thompson, Geo. Hayward, Winslow Lewis, J. Stimson, M. Root, Anson Hooker, J. W. Bemis, H. Richardson, E. Buck, B. C. Cutting, C. F. Fisher, Wm. H. Page, H. Ward, E. B. Moore, J. H. Yorke, A. Le Baron Monroe, G. Kimball, S. G. Burnap, J. G. Metcalfe, R. T. Davis, A. Shurtleff, Jas. Farnum, B. Cox, Jr., Jno. Homans, A. P. Hooker, Ambrose Eames, A. C. Fry, E. D. G. Palmer, S. L. Sprague, Calvin Ellis, J. N. Borland, D. H. Storer, E. H. Clark, Jno. Green, C. D. Homans, Stephen Hare, Jno. O. Green, Wm.

Workman, Jos. Sargent, H. Sargent, C. C. Holmes, E. D. Miller, J. Blake, Benj. Cutter, Francis Leland, Luther Parks, Jr., Geo. Choate, Levi Folsom, J. M. Warren, C. P. Fiske—53.

RHODE ISLAND.—U. Parsons, J. Mauran, A. Ballou, J. H. Eldridge, C. W. Parsons, Wm. O. Brown, David King—7.

CONNECTICUT.—P. A. Jewett, G. C. Buddington, N. B. Ives, H. M. Matthews, Reynold Webb, L. J. Sandford, J. Nicoll, J. G. Beckwith, S. T. Salisbury, Jas. Welsh, Sam'l Noyes, Chas. Hooker, Jonathan Knight, E. H. Bishop, A. Woodward, J. D. Ford, L. Williams, F. L. Dickinson, Alden Skinner, C. H. Lindley, J. Canfield, L. N. Beardsley, G. W. Barker, Ira Hutchinson, E. B. Nye, D. Harrison, R. Hubbard, G. L. Platt, D. S. Burr, Wm. W. Welch, M. H. Wilson—31.

NEW YORK.—J. M. Newman, I. Wood, D. M. Reese, A. C. Post, M. H. H. Parkhurst, A. F. Doolittle, G. L. Little, A. L. Saunders, F. C. Stewart, D. Green, J. W. Corson, Wm. Rockwell, J. F. Jenkins, J. G. Orton, R. O. Crandall, B. F. Barker, Horace Green, C. H. Wilcox, F. H. Hamilton, T. A. Emmitt, E. Schilling, E. Krackowizer, T. N. Zellhauff, J. McCall, N. H. Dering, J. Reed, J. Watson, J. M. Smith, W. C. Anderson, E. M. Armstrong, Thos. Jackson, T. C. Fennell, C. Badlong, H. S. West, E. H. Davis, A. Baker, Jr., N. H. Eastman, P. A. Brooks, A. Willard, S. Smith, J. Shark, J. Warren, H. S. Davis, Alden March, C. G. Pomeroy, C. G. Bacon, J. E. Todd, E. Carr, H. W. Brown, E. B. Warner, J. Wooster, C. Henschell, J. P. White, J. O. Pond, J. L. Phelps, J. P. Batchelder, S. S. Purple, J. C. Hutchinson, T. F. Cock, J. A. Garrish, P. Earle, Wm. N. Blakeman, L. A. Sayre, T. A. Wade, Louis Bauer, D. S. Conant, J. A. Monell, M. Stephenson, H. D. Bulkley, Alonzo Clark, H. M. Dean, F. Hyde, H. Jewett, J. M. Austin, T. F. Denning, J. H. Trask—76.

NEW JERSEY.—A. D. Woodruff, T. F. Cullen, J. H. Hampton, R. M. Cooper, Lewis Condict, H. H. Longstreet, G. Goodell, I. P. Coleman, Chas. Cook, J. Thompson, A. D. Morford, J. R. Stuart, O. H. Taylor, Wm. Elmer, S. W. Butler, J. R. Sickler, I. S. Mulford, J. H. Phillips, Jno. Blane, Zach. Read, B. H. Stratton, L. A. Smith, E. Fithian, C. F. Clarke, Geo. R. Chetwood, Q. Gibbon, J. B. Munn, T. J. Corson, P. F. Brakely—29.

PENNSYLVANIA.—Isaac Hays, Geo. B. Wood, R. McGiven, E. Hartshorne, J. B. Biddle, F. West, F. Barker, Jno. Neill, F. G. Smith, Jr., J. Carson, P. B. Goddard, J. Rod. Paul, Chas. James, H. Carpenter, G. Emerson, D. A. Moser, J. A. Martin, R. K. Smith, H. L. Hodge, Sam'l Jackson, J. Pancoast, C. D. Meigs, D. Gilbert, J. McClellan, I. A. Pennypacker, H. Hartshorne, Geo. W. Norris, S. Littell, A. Stillé, J. J. Reese, J. L. Ludlow, H. H. Smith, Robt. Thomas, S. L. Hollingsworth, W. V. Keating, Caspar Wister, B. S. Janney, T. H. Yardley, D. F. Condie, P. D. Lajus, W. Jewell, Jno. Bell, T. F. Bolton, S. Jackson, Wm. B. Page, Sam'l Lewis, A. E. Stocker, W. H. Klapp, E. Wilson, Jno. Cone, J. W. Emlen, Arnold Naudain, L. Curtis, Wm. Maybury, R. H. Townsend, N. L. Hatfield, J. H. Smaltz, T. Hewsom Bache, J. M. Corse, I. Thompson, N. Emanuel, C. J. Morton, J. B. Stubbs, P. Cassidy, J. R. Raub, T. Ellmaker, R. Duncan, Jno. L. Atlee, J. M. Gemmill, F. M. Heister, P. G. Bertolet, Wm. Gries, E. Wallace, Jno. Dyer, J. DaCosta, C. H. Martin, Hiram Corson, C. Shoemaker, Jno. L. Foulke, Wm. R. Finley, A. Roxbrock, H. Bond, Geo. J. Zeigler, R. LaRoche, B. H. Coates, W. Sargent, W. L. Atlee, J. D. Ross, Jas. Bryan, Wm. Ashmead, J. Lowman, J. F. Lamb, L. Rodman, R. M. Jackson, W. S. Thompson, Wm. Corson, Jas. S. Carpenter, Geo. Halberstadt, A. Hewson, O. W. James, Wm. Pepper, J. W. Kerr, H. Y. Smith, A. M. Pollock, W. H. Worthington, A. K. Gaston, S. A. Ogier, R. E. James, E. Swift, J. G. Koehler, J. M. Cooper, W. W. Townsend, John Ream, J. A. Ehler, A. Heger, M. Stillé, G. Fox, L. Turnbull, T. S. Spencer, T. Green, W. J. Wilson, G. W. Wimley, J. H. Dorsey, W. M. Guilford—124.

DELAWARE.—R. H. Clarke, H. F. Askew, Jno. Merritt, G. Salisbury, J.

Couper, J. W. Thomson, Wm. R. Bullock, J. F. Wilson, L. P. Bush, J. P. Wales, R. R. Porter—11.

MARYLAND.—R. H. Thomas, P. Wroth, J. Hopkins, Sam'l P. Smith, A. M. White, W. Duvall, C. Macgill, A. S. Piggott, W. H. Baltrell, T. Matthews, G. W. Miltenberger, J. E. Chamberlain, T. W. Martin, E. M. Hardcastle, F. Donaldson, T. C. Kennon, C. Johnston, C. Frick, J. K. Sappington, J. Gilman, S. K. Handy, Jas. Bordley, Wm. B. Crane, F. E. B. Hintze, G. W. Lawrence, W. F. Bell, J. F. Monmonier, D. O. O'Donnell, W. H. Davis, Wm. Riley—30.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.—L. H. Steiner, Thos. Miller, B. J. Hellen, G. Tyler, A. J. Semmes, J. Riley, H. Lindsley, J. C. Hall, C. Boyle, G. M. Done, W. I. C. Duhamel, J. E. Morgan—12.

VIRGINIA.—P. Trent, J. L. Dorset, C. B. Gibson, B. R. Wellford, D. H. Tucker, H. H. McGuire, Jas. Lyle, J. L. Cabell, B. W. Allen, J. W. Smith, J. F. Peebles, T. C. Spencer, P. C. Gooch, J. C. Cabell, P. F. Brown, Wm. B. Cochran, J. M. Hurt, A. S. Dillon—18.

NORTH CAROLINA.—O. F. Manson, N. J. Pittman, C. F. Dewey, J. R. Thompson, B. W. Mayberry—5.

SOUTH CAROLINA.—T. T. Robertson, J. F. Geddings, N. H. Gibbes, W. W. Mobley, R. F. Michel, J. L. Dawson, R. S. Bailey, C. Happoldt, T. J. G. Prieleau, H. R. Frost, S. Farr, F. M. Robertson, P. C. Gaillard, Amory Coffin, Octavius White, R. A. Kinlock, H. W. DeSaussure—17.

GEORGIA.—R. D. Arnold—1.

ALABAMA.—Wm. M. Boling, P. H. Cabell, A. Denny, S. W. Clauton—4.

TENNESSEE.—F. A. Ramsay, R. C. Foster, J. B. Lindsley, John Millington—4.

KENTUCKY.—C. J. Blackburne, J. C. Johnston, T. G. Richardson, D. D. Thompson, J. H. Bradford, J. B. Flint, A. B. Cook, W. A. Norwood—8.

OHIO.—Levi D. Scheetz, J. C. Williams, R. Hills, R. B. Leonard, J. F. Potter, E. Gaston, R. R. McIlvaine, C. D. Cotton, A. Cary, A. Dunlap, R. D. Mussey, Dan'l Tilden, T. W. McArthur, A. M. Johnson, Wm. Clendenin, T. H. Baker, W. S. Battle, A. Evans, C. G. Comegys, Thos. Wood, S. M. Smith, Jno. Dawson, J. P. Walker, O. D. Norton, Jno. F. Holston, Caleb Jones—26.

INDIANA.—M. M. Latta, Joel Pennington, T. U. Florer, E. Murphy, W. E. Sarber—5.

ILLINOIS.—N. S. Davis, J. W. Freer, Jos. Stout, D. Brainard, A. H. Luce, S. M. Noble, R. Rouse, J. V. Z. Blaney—8.

MICHIGAN.—N. B. Stebbins, H. Taylor, J. H. Rauch, Wm. Brodie, Zina Pitcher, A. B. Palmer—6.

IOWA.—J. E. Sanbourne—1.

WISCONSIN.—A. S. Castleman, J. J. Brown, J. B. Dousman, J. K. Bartlett, C. G. Pease—5.

MISSOURI.—C. A. Pope, L. P. Perry, T. C. Massie, E. S. Lemoine, E. F. Smith—5.

U. S. ARMY.—G. R. B. Horner—1.

U. S. NAVY.—T. Dillard, J. M. Greene, Sam'l Barrington—3.

PARISIAN MED. SOCIETY.—W. F. Atlee—1.

Total number of delegates, 510.

The President, Dr. Chas. A. Pope, being called upon, delivered the annual address, as follows:—

Gentlemen: With feelings of grateful pleasure, I meet you, and greet you, on this occasion.

For high and useful purposes, have we assembled from the wide extent of our beloved country. The elevation of a noble profession—the promotion of science—the good of humanity—these have been, are, and will continue to be, the objects of our Association. Whether we have, thus far, done much or little, our sole aim has been the advancement of the best interests of our

fellow men. I shall not assert that we have done as much as we might have done, or that the course hitherto pursued by us is so perfect as to admit of no improvement. Were such the fact, and were the Association a firmly established institution, I might have experienced more hesitation in the selection of a theme for the present occasion. And since we cannot, as yet, I think, urge such a claim, the few suggestions which I shall offer are made with becoming diffidence, but at the same time with a deep sense of their importance to the welfare and perpetuity of our Association.

Some strictures on our proceedings, in medical and other journals, have appeared within the last year, as well as in previous years. I shall not here blame the authors of them. They are, doubtless, as proud of our noble profession as we, and equally with us, anxious for the advancement of its interests and its honor. I thank them for their suggestions. All of us are ready to hear them and to profit by them. If any more effectual mode of arriving at truth can be devised, than that which we have heretofore pursued, all of us are ready to follow it, and would rather thank than quarrel with those who may propose it.

Physicians have an almost superhuman mission to fulfil. The goal of their ambition, and their hopes, and their duty, stands at the *ultima thule* of human capacity—nay, rather beyond it. It cannot, indeed, be said, that their duties are beyond their powers, but their ambition, their hopes, their wishes certainly are. They would gladly know, not only all the secrets of organization, but those also of physiology, pathology, and therapeutics. To arrive at such knowledge, is, perhaps, beyond the attainment of the human mind. Multiform are the elements which enter into the problem of health and disease. Health is, itself, a constant change of composition—diseases are ever-varying changes, supervening on this.

Do we know, with all our advancement, and after all the toil of our predecessors for two thousand years, the exact changes in which any disease, the fevers for instance, consists? And even when we shall have learned these, so as to understand them as well as the most ordinary chemical changes, the ever-varying character of most diseases, and the inward disturbing influences upon them of the mental and moral emotions, would require to follow them a continued stretch and power of intellect, of which it is doubtful if man be capable. This exactness of knowledge is not, I grant, necessary to the very successful practice of medicine. Our profession can render great and important services to man without it, but with it, it would be still more serviceable. To it our ambition tends. To this perfect knowledge we aspire. Although we may never reach, we can yet eternally approach it. In the vast region of our researches, there is no probability that human genius will ever, Alexander like, weep for the want of unconquered provinces. Beyond the conquests of the future heroes of the profession, there will always be a boundless field for the ambitious and philanthropic explorer. In the language of a western student, "the science of medicine, like the liver of Prometheus, is sufficient to glut the eagles of all time."

The object of this Association is to do something to advance the profession towards the far-distant goal of perfection—to aid the solution of some of the problems and enigmas of life and organization—to add some material to the growing temple, whose foundations were so firmly laid by the Coan sage—and to do its part, as best it may, in the cause of humanity. Nor do I think that, so far, it has altogether failed. Many valuable contributions to science have been elicited—professional ambition has been stimulated—an *esprit de corps* has been successfully evoked and established. The strength of the profession has acquired additional power by the union of its members. This Association has been to physicians, what the railroad and electric wires are to commerce, and the interchange of useful knowledge to States and nations. It has made us one; and, as I have just remarked, in unity there is power.

This Association has stimulated thought. Chaotic and void would forever remain the masses of facts, accumulated by the observations of ages, but for the co-ordinating and logical power of reason. It sits in judgment on the silent phenomena, as a "refiner of fire, and a purifier of silver." It forces the voiceless facts to mount the tripod of the oracle, and speak forth words of wisdom. The scalpel, the crucible, the microscope, may be subsidiary to its purposes and ends, but they cannot supply its place. Fixed and patient thought, in medicine, as in the other departments of science, is the Aladdin's lamp, that lights the footsteps of the discoverer. To stimulate attention and thought, is to accelerate many a new discovery—to hasten the advent and establishment of important principles yet in the womb of the future. May not our Association do this more effectually than it has hitherto done?

Let all the contributions be read and attentively considered. Such a course would certainly be more encouraging, as well as more respectful, to their authors. Let the reports be deliberately and fully discussed, and let them go forth to the world with the sanction or criticisms of the Association. This would require time, it is true, but if we have time to meet at all, surely a few days would make but little difference. The good that would be effected would yield a tenfold compensation for the time employed. Every one must admit that three or four days is too short a time for the Association rightly to fulfil its annual mission.

I would, moreover, respectfully suggest that time be taken for the discussion of some of the leading topics of medical philosophy. Amongst these, may be mentioned the nature, causes, and treatment of cholera, yellow fever, *et cætera*—hygiene, and the laws of health affecting masses of men—quarantine—the causes of mortality among children—the chemical and vital doctrines of life. Questions like these, indicated a year in advance for discussion, would excite a carefulness of investigation, and a degree of attention and thought which could not fail to clear away much of the darkness and doubt in which they are yet shrouded. Nothing so sharpens the intellectual powers as public debate. It fixes attention, and strains to the utmost every faculty. I have no hesitation in saying that facts enough have been accumulated to establish great and general principles, of which the medical world is yet in ignorance or doubt. Nothing would contribute more to demonstrate these principles than the collision of matured intellects in public debate. What a mass of facts, and argument, and demonstration would be brought to bear, on any of the subjects alluded to, if some of the best minds in the profession were to debate them, after a year's preparation! Observed facts are the crude materials of science—the intellect is the master builder of its august temple.

I make these suggestions for your consideration. All the scientific meetings in this country and in Europe, employ more time than ours has hitherto employed. Evidently we must protract our sessions, if we would render them as serviceable to science as they may be. No member of the Association will be required to remain longer than suits his wishes or convenience. Some fifty or sixty, more or less, would always be found to listen with eagerness to scientific papers, and engage with pleasure in scientific discussions.

The time has probably arrived, for a change in our plan of organization, which will admit of the selection of a permanent place for the future meetings of the Association. There are evident advantages incident to both the migratory and stationary plans. These might, perhaps, be easily reconciled and secured. A proposition, if I mistake not, was made some years ago, by the Smithsonian Institution, and I would respectfully suggest, whether it would not be in accordance with the best interests of the Association, to hold biennial meetings in Washington, and the alternate ones, as now, at different points of our common country. We might thus secure all the advantages of a fixed abode, in the way of preserving the archives, making collections, etc., whilst by meeting in various localities, we could not fail to excite that

wide-spread interest among the profession, and obtain such accessions of new members as would greatly enhance the high and useful objects of our Association. Should this proposal meet with your approbation, I would further intimate that policy would perhaps require the meetings of the Association at the National Capital, to be held in the years of the short sessions of Congress.

I shall say but little of the legislative duties of the Association. I shall say nothing of the propriety or impropriety of getting laws passed to regulate the practice of medicine, and furnish standards for candidates for the Doctorate. Perhaps the Association can do but little in this respect. Ours is a popular government, and the people are disposed to allow the largest freedom in everything pertaining to medicine, medical schools, and physicians. Laws passed against quackery one year, are revoked the next. Our country is the paradise of quacks. All good things have their attendant evils, and this unbridled liberty is one of the evils of a popular government. May we not hope, however, that even this evil may disappear, as general education and the cultivation of the masses advance? At any rate the people are not yet disposed to put down the quacks, nor to require too high a degree of qualification for those of the regular profession. After all, laws can make only mediocre physicians. They can require the candidates to know only so much—to be qualified to a certain degree; and this degree will always be far lower than that to which the true lovers of knowledge would attain, without any legislation on the subject. The greater lights of the profession cannot be manufactured after any process of legislative enactment. Thirst of knowledge, self-love, philanthropy, burning ambition—these make the great physician and surgeon. These have made all the worthies of the past—not legislation. Legislation cannot drive the drone to the proud heights of professional eminence. When these heights are reached, it will be seen that the successful aspirant has been stimulated by a stronger power.

To him the laurel blossoms of renown and the life-giving mission of his art, are dearer and more attractive than was the mystic bough of the sibyl, to the eager Æneas, or, than the golden apples, guarded by sleepless dragons, to the Hesperian daughters.

Whatever course you may think proper to pursue, I am sure that your objects will be, the advancement of science—the good of mankind—the honor and glory of the profession. We have the dignity and character of a noble calling to sustain—of a profession which has numbered, for two thousand years and more, some of the wisest and best men in all countries and all times. It is no trivial matter to sustain the rank and respectability of a vocation which can boast of a Hippocrates, a Harvey, a Hunter, of the most erudite and beneficent of sages and philanthropists the world ever saw—of a profession which has furnished to every nation its *clarum et venerabile nomen*.

On the eve of the battle of the pyramids, Napoleon exclaimed, Soldiers! from the height of yon monuments, forty centuries look down upon you. Gentlemen, from the heights of past ages, countless worthies of our God-like profession point and beckon to a goal more elevated than that which attracts legislators and conquerors, Solons and Cæsars.

On motion of Dr. J. B. Biddle,

Resolved, That the thanks of the Association are unanimously tendered to the President, for the able and eloquent address just delivered; also, that a copy be obtained for publication.

Dr. Hays stated that, in accordance with the plans of the Committee of Arrangements, it would be necessary for the Convention to hold its sessions

from 9 A. M. to 3 P. M. with one hour recess each day, which, on motion, was agreed to.

A recess of fifteen minutes was now declared, to allow the assembling of the various State delegations for the purpose of appointing one member each, to serve in a committee to report nominations for permanent officers of the Association.

On the reassembling of the Convention, Dr. N. S. Davis, Vice-President, in the chair, Dr. D. Francis Condie moved, that all permanent members, who through want of notification, had not paid their assessment, but who had subsequently paid, be reinstated to permanent membership. The reason for the motion was stated to be, the probable miscarriage of the notices, by which members had been caused to neglect the requirements of the Association.

Dr. Watson, of N. Y., said that he considered the resolution passed at the last annual meeting in St. Louis, expelling those who had not paid their assessments or dues, an infringement of the constitution: therefore, he could see no good reason for this motion, so long as that resolution stood.

Dr. Condie rejoined, and quoted the provisions of the constitution, to show that if the payments were not made, permanent membership cannot be retained.

Dr. Watson moved to amend the motion as follows:—

“Resolved, That no member of the Association shall be deprived of his privileges as a permanent member, by not contributing to pay the expenses of an annual meeting at which he is not present.”

Considerable discussion was elicited, during which Dr. White, of Buffalo, moved that the whole subject be referred to a committee of three. Agreed to.

The chairman appointed Dr. White, of Buffalo, Dr. Watson, of New York, and Dr. Condie, of Philadelphia.

The list of States was now called, and each delegation reported the name of its representative in the Nominating Committee as follows:—

Maine—A. J. Fuller.
 N. Hampshire—Silas Cummings.
 Vermont—Israel Hinkley.
 Massachusetts—C. P. Fiske.
 Rhode Island—Jos. Mauran.
 Connecticut—P. A. Jewett.
 New York—John McCall.
 Pennsylvania—J. B. Biddle.
 New Jersey—Lewis Condict.
 Delaware—James W. Thompson.
 Maryland—Charles McGill.
 District of Columbia—T. Miller.
 Virginia—B. R. Wellford.
 North Carolina—O. F. Manson.

South Carolina—P. C. Gaillard.
 Georgia—Richard D. Arnold.
 Alabama—P. H. Cabell.
 Tennessee—J. Berrien Lindsley.
 Kentucky—C. J. Blackburne.
 Ohio—R. Hills.
 Indiana—Joel Pennington.
 Illinois—J. V. Z. Blaney.
 Michigan—A. B. Palmer.
 Missouri—L. P. Perry.
 Iowa—J. E. Sandbourne.
 Wisconsin—J. B. Dousman.
 U. S. Navy—Thos. Dillard.

Dr. F. C. Stewart, of N. Y., offered the following:—

Resolved, That the Nominating Committee be instructed to present three names to the Association as candidates for the office of President, who shall be elected by ballot; and the candidate who shall have the smallest vote, shall be withdrawn after the first ballot.

After some debate, it was moved that the resolution be laid upon the table. Agreed to.

It was moved that the Nominating Committee be instructed to recommend the place for the next annual meeting of the Convention. Agreed to.

Dr. Zina Pitcher read an invitation from the medical profession of Detroit, to the Association, to meet next year in that city. Referred to the committee, which then withdrew for conference.

Dr. Brainard, of Chicago, on behalf of the medical profession of Illinois, extended an invitation to the Association to hold the next meeting in that city. He wanted the claims of Chicago remembered among the cities of the West. The invitation was referred to the Committee on Nominations.

An invitation to meet at Nashville, Tenn., was referred to the same committee.

Dr. F. A. Ramsey, of Tennessee, moved that so much of the President's address as relates to the place of holding meetings of the Association, be referred to the Committee on Nominations. Agreed to.

Dr. D. D. Thompson, of Louisville, moved a suspension of rules, for the purpose of taking up that amendment to the constitution which relates to the time in the session, at which election for officers shall take place. He stated the object of the amendment to be, to afford them sufficient time between their election and entrance upon duty, for becoming acquainted with parliamentary usages. The motion was not carried.

The next business in order was the reading of the annual reports of the Standing Committees.

The Committee on Prize Essays reported through Dr. René La Roche. The committee had received six essays in competition for the prize offered by the Association. But, although these essays evinced much ability and extensive learning, but one was decided to possess those qualities, which deserved the award of the prize. It was entitled "STATISTICS OF PLACENTA PRÆVIA." The name of the author was announced as Dr. James D. Trask, of White Plains, Westchester County, N. Y. Referred to Committee on Publication.

Dr. Thos. Reyburn, chairman of Committee on Epidemics of Missouri, Illinois, Iowa, and Wisconsin, read an abstract of the report submitted, which was, on motion, referred to the Committee on Publication.

At this stage of the proceedings, Dr. White, on behalf of the committee to whom was referred the resolution and amendments respecting permanent membership, submitted a report, recommending the adoption of the following resolution:—

Resolved, That no permanent member who is not present at an annual meeting of this Association, shall be required to pay the usual assessment; but no such permanent member shall be entitled to receive a copy of the printed proceedings of the meeting, unless by paying a sum equal to that assessed upon those who were present at such meeting; and that all the names of permanent members that have been left off the published list, be reinserted in the next volume of *Transactions*.

Resolved, That no assessment whatever shall be made against members by

invitation, but that they also be entitled to a copy of the printed *Transactions* by paying the sum assessed upon delegates in attendance.

The report of the committee was accepted and the resolution was adopted.

Dr. Sanford B. Hunt, of Buffalo, stated that he had prepared his report on the "Hygrometrical State of the Atmosphere in various Localities, and its Influence on Health;" but it would not admit of being embodied in an abstract; its reading would consume, perhaps an hour, which he would do, if the Association so ordered; or he would furnish the manuscript to the Committee on Publication.

A motion was made to accept and refer the report to that committee, whereupon an animated discussion arose as to the propriety of allowing any report from standing committees to pass into the hands of the Publishing Committee, without first being read in abstract or in full, before the Association. The hour for adjournment having arrived, a motion to lay the subject on the table prevailed.

On motion, adjourned.

At 4 o'clock P. M., the members visited, according to invitation, the Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane, and in the evening they were received at the houses of Drs. Hodge, Norris, and Bache.

MAY 2D.—MORNING SESSION.

The Association reassembled at 9 o'clock A. M. The minutes of the preceding day were read and approved.

Dr. Jno. L. Atlee, of Lancaster, Pa., asked and received permission to make a statement from the committee appointed by the annual meeting held at Richmond, to procure a suitable stone for the Association to contribute to the Washington Monument. An assessment of \$1 had been made, upon each member, to purchase the stone and pay for the sculpture. The latter was executed by a young man named JOHN AUGUSTUS BECK. The design was suggested by the late Dr. Pierson, of Salem, Mass., but before he could consummate the plan, the fearful Norwalk calamity swept him from our midst. The drawing was made by his daughter, Miss Abby L. Pierson. The design, cut in alto relievo, on the face of a slab of Vermont marble, is a representation of Hippocrates, when refusing the bribes offered by the King of Persia to visit the Court of that prince, and give medical aid to the plague-ridden subjects of his empire—he indignantly exclaims: "Tell your master that I am rich enough; that honor will not allow me to succor the enemies of Greece." Eminent artists, who have examined the stone, consider that no sculptor in America could have performed the work so well. Mr. Beck has been encouraged to pursue his study in Italy, and it is probable that he will rank among the finest sculptors of his age.

Dr. Atlee appealed to the members to come forward and make up a handsome compensation for the young artist.

A resolution was offered, to the effect that no member should speak unless his name and residence were announced. Adopted.

The chairman of the Committee on Nominations recommended the following officers for the ensuing year:—

President—GEO. B. WOOD, of Pennsylvania.

Vice-Presidents—WM. M. BOLING, of Alabama; DANIEL TILDEN, of Ohio; D. HUMPHREY STORER, of Massachusetts; GRAFTON TYLER, of the District of Columbia.

Secretaries—FRANCIS WEST, of Pennsylvania; R. C. FOSTER, of Tennessee.

Treasurer—CASPAR WISTER, of Pennsylvania.

Committee on Publications—FRANCIS G. SMITH, of Pennsylvania, Chairman; FRANCIS WEST, of do.; R. C. FOSTER, of Tennessee; SAMUEL L. HOLLINGSWORTH, of Pennsylvania; H. S. ASKEW, of Delaware; SAMUEL LEWIS, of Pennsylvania.

The committee also recommended Nashville, Tennessee (but not unanimously) as the next place of holding the annual meeting.

The officers recommended were, on motion, approved by the Association.

The newly elected officers were conducted to their seats, by an appointed committee of five—Drs. J. M. Smith, of N. Y., Homans, of Boston, Blackburne, of Ky., Rouse, of Illinois, and Frost, of S. C.

Dr. Wood, on taking the chair, said he was deeply sensible of the honor conferred by the appointment, and none the less from an impression that it was probably an exhibition for the place where the Association was holding its meeting. Personally, he had a deep sympathy with the purposes for the advancement of which the Medical Association was established. He had devoted his past life to the advancement of these objects, and he would devote to the same the little that might remain. He was unaccustomed to presiding over such large assemblies, but he would endeavor to justify the appointment.

On motion, the thanks of the Association were tendered to the retiring President, Dr. Charles A. Pope, of Missouri, for the able and impartial manner in which he had presided over its meetings.

The second part of the committee's report, advising Nashville as the place of holding the next Convention, was taken under consideration.

A member moved that the next meeting be held at Washington, D. C.

Dr. Palmer offered an amendment that Detroit be substituted for Washington.

A member said that it would be impossible for the members of the Association to be accommodated in Washington, during a long session of Congress.

A member said that Nashville could be reached by railroad from the South, also by most splendid packets, that ply on the Ohio to the Cumberland river.

The motion relating to Washington, was laid on the table.

Dr. Palmer, of Chicago, urged that the Association hold its next meeting at Detroit, and moved, in lieu of the report of the Committee, "that the next meeting be held at Detroit."

A motion was made that the whole subject be referred to a committee of five. Laid on the table.

The vote was taken on the motion of Dr. Palmer, "that the next meeting be held at Detroit," and it was agreed to by a large majority.—[Much applause.]

Dr. Foster, the newly-elected Secretary, tendered his resignation, which was accepted.

Dr. Brodie, of Michigan, was nominated for the office, and elected by acclamation.

Dr. Hunt, of Buffalo, read an abstract of his report on the Hygrometrical State of the Atmosphere in various Localities, and its Influence on Health.

During the reading of this valuable paper, a motion was made and unanimously adopted, "that the desultory conversation of members be done down stairs."

Dr. Hunt's report was accepted, and referred to the Committee on Publication.

A resolution authorizing a committee to be appointed by the chair, for the purpose of obtaining commutation tickets to members over the various railroads at the time this Association was in session, was agreed to.

Dr. Frank H. Hamilton, of Buffalo, N. Y., read an abstract of his report "On the Frequency of Deformities in Fractures."

The Doctor enjoined upon the members of the Association to carefully consider some mode of arresting the prosecutions for malpractice, which so frequently occur in our country. He had been informed this morning, that in a district not over forty miles from this city, within a few years past, not less than twelve prosecutions had been made against members of the profession. There was no artisan but the surgeon who was held accountable for a mere failure, and why was it that this should be? Was it the work of jealous and designing men who are in our practice, who falsely show up the failures of their brethren, and at the same time conceal their own faults? He much feared that a few of such men were among us, but was proud to repeat the remarks of an eminent lawyer, who had said of the profession "that as a whole none stands by itself so well and nobly."

Is it the fault of the lawyers? Young lawyers with neither money nor morals might have something to do with encouraging prosecutions: Joshua Spencer, an eminent lawyer, said that he had acted as counsel in many cases, but had never instituted a prosecution against any member of the medical profession; nor did he know of any member of the bar who occupied a high position that did; he had ever looked upon such prosecutions as *persecutions*.

The members of the profession should interrogate themselves as to the cause of these prosecutions and freely admit to the world the difficulties and imperfections attending surgery, which had too long been kept concealed. We have heard members of the profession declare they could mend a fractured femur without shortening the limb; this may be an impossibility, and it is disgraceful to make such assertions, because they may not be true, and it is calculated, not only to degrade, but subject us to these prosecutions. Even that city of medical science, Philadelphia, had not produced a book which could instruct physicians how to unite a fractured femur in all cases, without shortening the limb.

The abstract and remarks of Dr. Hamilton excited great interest; on motion, the report was accepted and referred to the Publishing Committee.

Dr. Chas. Hooker, of New Haven, read an abstract of his report on "Diet for the Sick," which lays down laws for the government of diet under various diseases, and specifies the particular articles which may be given with benefit.

The Association here took a recess for the purpose of proceeding to Independence Hall—the members forming in line and marching in procession.

RECEPTION AT INDEPENDENCE HALL.—On their assembling in the east room

of this venerable and venerated hall—the room in which was signed the document which proclaimed us to the world as a free and independent nation—the chairman of the Committee of Arrangements, Dr. Isaac Hays, introduced the Association to the Mayor of the city in a few appropriate remarks, to which his Honor responded as follows:—

Mr. Chairman of the Committee of Arrangements: I thank you, in the name of the community which I have the honor to represent, for your eloquent introduction of our friends to the authorities of the city, and to this the Hall of Independence.

Gentlemen of the American Medical Association: I am proud of the privilege of extending to you, in the name of the government and of the people of Philadelphia, a most cordial welcome.

I bid you welcome to our city—a city which, deriving a cherished distinction from the profession which you adorn, is eager, now and ever, to requite it, in her tribute of respect for its professors. I welcome you to our people, whose intercourse, for many a year, with you or your brethren, has inspired a feeling which, reserved as we are sometimes said to be, will, I doubt not, burst into earnest and unambiguous expression, before you leave us.

I welcome you, gentlemen, to this Hall, but not as strangers or the sons of strangers—for it is your own. As the temple and territory of Delphos, in the wildest domestic perturbations of Greece, afforded one sacred area over which the cloud of discord never gathered, one altar whose worship was never invaded, this spot, consecrated to our common American glory, knows no lines of latitude, and belongs, in truth, no more to us, whose peculiar privilege it is to inherit its guardianship, than to our brothers—to you. In coming hither, therefore, you *come home*. These precincts have been hallowed, for all time, by the heroic virtues of your and our fathers. This is the fountain from the which the living waters of American liberty were first drawn, and it is therefore most sacred—(wo to the generation in which it ceases to be sacred!)—but, like the well of the Patriarch, all the tribes of Liberty's Israel own here an equal right, and owe here an equal homage.

In no sense, then, can I greet you as strangers—for yours are names familiar to every American proud of the science of his country; and those who are united, by this Association, in a cause so lofty as that eloquently characterized by your chairman, may not only claim the universal and acknowledged privileges of the Republic of minds, but the rights of a nearer and a dearer charter, the Brotherhood of beneficence—the kindred claims of noble hearts, knit in the highest and holiest of human aspirations. In this spirit, with the most fervent and fraternal sentiments of respect and regard, I greet and welcome you.

You are right, Mr. Chairman, in claiming, amid the associations which hallow these precincts, a peculiar privilege for your profession—a profession which not only sprinkled, with the earliest sacrificial blood of the Revolution, the highest altar upon which Valor vowed and dedicated our country to freedom—I refer, as you have referred, to Dr. Warren and Bunker Hill—but which, in every struggle for the enlargement and enlightenment of human destinies, has been eminently distinguished for courage, zeal, and fidelity to the rights of man. You have, therefore, a peculiar right to claim kindred here, and have that claim allowed; and within these walls, which witnessed the zeal of Rush, it would be a treason to virtue to forget, that one of the lights of your profession shed glory upon the solemn debates of this hall, and was foremost amongst those that bade yonder bell* (preserved and devoted

* *The Liberty Bell.*—This is the bell which was rejoicingly rung, from the steeple of the old State House, when the Declaration of Independence was originally read, in July, 1776, to the thousands assembled in the State House yard, now Independence Square. Upon this bell—cast long before the Revolution, and brought from England in the colony times—are the prophetic words of Scripture quoted—“Proclaim liberty throughout all the land, to all the inhabitants thereof.”

to the veneration of posterity), with its iron tongue, to PROCLAIM LIBERTY THROUGHOUT ALL THE LAND, TO ALL THE INHABITANTS THEREOF.

It is the glorious peculiarity of your profession that, while Ambition, in its ordinary and most applauded paths, plays the part of the *Destroyer*, and wins glory at the expense of human life and happiness, you and yours, with a more exalted civilization, a nobler heroism, have ever *sought to save*. Next to the highest of all human courage—if, indeed, it be merely *human*—that of the martyrs of religious Truth—the courage of the physician, whether on the battle-field or in the lazar-house, the courage of science and humanity, is most sublime, and the best entitled to the *clarum et venerabile nomen*. The vulgar courage of the warrior, under the base stimulus of passion, or the low greed of applause, can hardly be compared to the noble intrepidity of the surgeon, who gleans, in the ruthless and red-handed reaper's path, the leavings of the battle; and still less with the hero of the hospital, who encounters the grim antagonist in the horrid silence and gloom of the pestilence. Imagination can hardly embody an instance of human courage and virtue more sublime and unearthly than that of the physician, who, in the midnight of a plague-stricken city, threads the fetid solitudes of its alleys, and, entering the devoted hovel of the wretched, ministers—while only Pestilence and Misery, Death and God look on—to the perishing. I need not step from this spot to grasp the hand of many a hero who claims no laurel—many a noble philanthropist whose sacred labors, in scenes like these, have been unmarked, save by the Eye that never slumbers, and remembered only by Him who alone can reward.

To such a profession, one venerable from its antiquity, noble from the grandeur of its objects, illustrious from its achievements, and which demands every aid and energy of genius and science, of head and heart, that dignifies the race, it is not strange that, go where it may, a ready homage greets, and a ready blessing attends it. In our own city, all that is noble in patriotism, all that is exalted in science, all that is bright and beautiful in the arts which refine society, all that is lovely and cherished and holy in private life, combine to render the profession sacred and dear to us.

There are few living, to whom some one death in the past is not the sole event and solitary memory of the survivor's life—to him a lonely pyramid in the melancholy desert; and to such a mind and memory, *the debt of the death-bed*, where science, rendered holy by its office, ministered, though never paid, is never repudiated. I never knew a good man, still less a good woman, who had not such a debt—a debt which bankrupt gratitude cherished with its holiest affections and sanctified with its devoutest memories.

In these times, when the omnipotence of associated effort is invoked for so much that is of dubious merit, it is a gratifying spectacle to behold the enlightened professors of the most exalted of all arts—men sage and grave, unselfish and unaspiring—forsaking the homes to which they are bound by the affections and the afflictions of thousands, by wealth, fame, and influence, to wander, wearily, away upon a pilgrimage of hundreds of leagues, in the cause and interests of the human family, its security, health, and happiness. For more than ten years, the representatives of your profession have thus gathered in Convention. What other body of our citizens have made a like effort—a like sacrifice? Selected from the most eminent of the profession, the delegates have been men whose years, like their virtues, were many. How difficult must have been, to them, the effort to burst through the bonds of a relying and clinging practice! How great the labor and how heavy the sacrifice! They have already visited, in this duty, the cities of every section of our wide country. How many have fallen by the wayside? How many martyrs could you not thus number in this cause? How many of the good and great of the profession have, in these benevolent pilgrimages, joined the ranks of the thousands who have sacrificed themselves, at the requisitions of duty, as recognized and enforced by your self-imposed laws—joining the

dead in the effort to aid the living? The epitaph of the Spartans at Thermopylae might well commemorate the virtues and the fate of these martyrs. But if the cost has been great, the results have been commensurate.

Of the professional advantages attained, though I know them to be invaluable, I will not presume to speak; but I may be permitted to state, as health is the most important subject of municipal provision and care, that the Transactions of the Association, which I have examined with great interest, comprise much that merits the attention, and will reward the respectful consideration, of the municipal governments of the Union.

It is natural that Philadelphia should feel, as she does feel, a profound interest in the cause of medical education in this country. She cannot, of course, forget that it was here that the first medical college was established in this country; that its merits and success extorted a reluctant transatlantic tribute of admiration; and that, progressing rapidly, but wisely, it achieved and maintained an equality with the most celebrated institutions of the Old World. As the cause of medical education has expanded, and institutions worthy of the cause and the country have sprung up, each triumph, thus attained, has been regarded here as the successful outbursting of an offshoot from the primary effort; and Philadelphia, while rejoicing in the expansion and elevation of medical education throughout the land, has almost fancied—so earnest is her interest in medical education—that she had a right to indulge a parental pride in all that advances that interest.

These genial feelings have been maintained, in all their early and fervid freshness, by constant intercourse with all sections of our country. The ingenuous and gallant youths that have come hither for medical instruction have, in their unstudied intercourse, exhibited the character of their respective States in a light so generous and exalted, as to win our affections, not only for themselves, but for the communities and States which could exult in them as their own. Winter after winter, we have had many hundreds of these noble young spirits among us. And let me remark that, rigorous as I am said to be in the administration of the law, I have yet to know the first occasion to rebuke, much less to punish, a medical student. We have found them as gentle and decorous in their deportment, as they are exalted in their aspirations; and had Philadelphia—eminently catholic in her affection for her sister communities—needed a lesson of love and loyalty, these high-hearted missionaries would have taught it. This interchange of sympathies has endured for the third of a century—may it last forever! The youths—youths no longer—who formerly bore those sentiments to the remote sections of our republic, stand before me now as the revered sages and ornaments of their profession, meeting here the evidences of a reputation which had preceded them, and has long been cherished by us. And who can tell what have been the results of this kindly interchange of kindly feelings? It has doubtless been felt in every commercial, social, and political relation of life, correcting the prejudices, harmonizing the discords, and subduing the dangers of our common country.

We realize these facts. We recognize, in the members of an enlightened profession like yours, so many patriots and philanthropists, engaged in the great and general interests of the human race; and, apart from the mere scientific acquisitions of your annual meetings, we perceive in them results auspicious to all that we cherish, all that is kindly, forbearing, and conservative, between man and man, party and party, State and State, section and section; and, so regarding them, we hail and greet you with a welcome as sincere and cordial as the heart can conceive, or the tongue can utter.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

At 1 P. M., the members having returned from Independence Hall, the President called the Association to order.

On motion, the thanks of the Association were tendered to the Mayor of Philadelphia for the very cordial manner in which he had received the Medical Association at Independence Hall, and that a copy of his speech be requested for publication in connection with the proceedings of the Association.

The rules were suspended, when Dr. Thompson, of Delaware, offered the following preamble and resolutions:—

Whereas, Few subjects of greater interest and importance could be presented to the consideration of the American Medical Association, now representing most of the States and Territories of the Union, than the attainment of a correct medical topography of each, with a history of its prevailing fevers, and the most successful treatment of the same; therefore, be it

Resolved, That with this view and conviction, this Association now appoint a special committee from each State and Territory represented, of — members, whose duty it shall be to report upon its medical topography, epidemic fevers, and the most successful treatment thereof, and that the same shall continue to hold their office for three years.

Resolved, That in the appointment of gentlemen of education and experience in the affairs of their own State, we have the best guarantee that the important objects we seek will be most satisfactorily accomplished; and the profession, as well as the public interest, will thereby be better served.

Resolved, That the committees heretofore appointed by this Association, at its session in Charleston, for a similar object, be, and the same are hereby discharged.

Dr. Askew, of Delaware, seconded the resolutions, and moved that they be laid on the table, and made the special order for Thursday, at 10 o'clock.

The motion was agreed to.

The Committee on Publication submitted a report, stating that the seventh volume of the proceedings of the Association was issued last November, 1000 copies being published at an expense of \$1,806 42; 781 copies have been sold or furnished to members of the Association; 35 were given to editors of medical journals, and 184 remain on hand. The resolutions, appended to the report, were adopted:—

Dr. Biddle, of Pa., offered the following resolution, which was adopted:—

Resolved, That the thanks of the Association are eminently due to the Committee on Publication, for the faithful and highly satisfactory manner in which their arduous and responsible duties have been discharged.

The Treasurer, Dr. Isaac Wood, presented his report, showing that the sum of \$2,101 04 was expended, during the past year, for the purposes of printing, binding, engravings, prize essays, &c.

The balance received from Dr. D. F. Condie, the former Treasurer, was \$293 99, while the assessments and sale of *Transactions* amounted to \$2,722, 31. There was also \$200 received from Drs. George B. Wood and Daniel Brainard on account of the prize fund, thus leaving a balance on hand of \$1,115 26.

Dr. Condie read a communication exculpating the former Committee on Publication from certain charges made against it at the meeting of 1854, in regard to the publication of the proceedings; and a charge made against Dr. Meigs, of this city, of making profit by publishing the material of the Asso-

ciation, as his own work. The charges against the committee were, that they had delayed the publication of the last volume of the proceedings, and had excluded several papers that were presented at the meeting of the Association. Both these charges were disproved, and Dr. Meigs was exonerated from the charge made against him. Dr. Condie asked that the communication be entered upon the journal.

A resolution was offered by Dr. Stewart, of New York, thanking the former Committee on Publication for the faithful performance of their arduous duties, and expressing the satisfaction of the Association therewith.

Dr. Condie stated that the Committee on Publication cared but little for the charges made against them; but they desired to do justice to a man who stood very high in reputation in Philadelphia, and who felt himself aggrieved by slanderous accusation. He withdrew the request that his communication be entered upon the minutes.

The resolution of thanks was then withdrawn, as Dr. Condie did not think it necessary.

Dr. Watson offered a resolution providing for the appropriation of \$1,000 to pay for the stone for the Washington Monument, which was adopted.

Dr. W. I. C. Duhamel, of Washington City, offered the following preamble and resolutions:—

Whereas, The cause of humanity, and a due regard to public health, imperatively demand the speedy enactment of more stringent quarantine laws to prevent the spread of infectious diseases throughout the country; and

Whereas, Distinguished legislators have co-operated with the medical profession in bringing this important subject to the attention of Congress; therefore

Resolved, That warmly approving of the bill introduced at the last session of Congress, and yet pending, to prevent sickness and mortality on ship-board, we cordially tender the honorable senators of the Special Committee, and others who so ably and earnestly advocated the measure, this expression of our sincere thanks for their unwearied exertions in behalf of the bill recommended by this Association, and yet indulge in the gratifying hope that their efforts in the cause of public welfare and suffering humanity will be crowned with success.

Dr. Mauran, of Providence, Rhode Island, seconded the above, and they were unanimously adopted.

The Secretary read a special report from Dr. Wm. H. Byford, of Evansville, Indiana, upon the Pathology and Treatment of Scrofula. This paper gives an account of the nature of the disease, its varieties, causes, effects, and treatment. Referred to the Committee on Publications.

Dr. N. S. Davis, of Chicago, presented a report on the "Nutritive Qualities of Milk, and the influence produced thereon by Pregnancy and Menstruation in the Human Female, and by Pregnancy in the Cow; and also on the question whether there is not some mode by which the nutritive constituents of milk can be preserved in their purity and sweetness, and furnished to the inhabitants of cities in such quantities as to supersede the present defective and often unwholesome modes of supply." The report says, that when railroads were opened into the interior of the country, it was said that milk would be furnished to residents of cities in the purity that it was found on farms; but a sufficient time had elapsed to demonstrate that such is not

the case. The conveyance of the milk from the farm to the cars, the transit on the railway, and the time lost in its delivery throughout the city, it was clearly shown, had the effect of making it unfit for the nourishment of a child. During the past half century experiments had been made with a view of preserving milk in its pure state, yet it was but recently that a discovery had been made by a gentleman in New York, which was to evaporate the water, and mix with white sugar, which rendered it what is termed, solidified milk. In his practice he had used this improved milk for the nourishment of infants with the most gratifying results, and after having kept it for three months; and he knew of its having been kept twelve months without any injury to its qualities.

The report was referred to the Committee on Publication, and the meeting adjourned.

In the course of the day's proceedings, the chairman announced that visiting invitations had been extended to the delegation from Prof. Hart, of the Central High School; from the Board of Health, to visit the City Hospital and the Lazaretto, which were accepted with thanks. At 4 o'clock, the Association, to the number of five hundred, proceeded in coaches to the reception at Girard College; after which they proceeded to Fairmount.

In the evening they were entertained at the residences of Drs. Wood, A. Stillé, and Paul.

THIRD DAY.—MORNING SESSION.

At 9 o'clock, the attendance was comparatively slim, but the members continued dropping in, and the spacious hall was soon filled up.

The chair was taken by the President, Dr. Wood, who called the Association to order.

The Secretary, Dr. West, read the minutes of yesterday's meeting, which were approved.

The chair said that there was no prescribed way of appointing the Committees on Prize Essays, Arrangements, &c.; it had been usual, however, for the Convention to refer the appointment of these committees to the Committee of Arrangements.

Dr. Watson moved that the subject be referred to that committee, on this occasion. The motion was agreed to.

Dr. Isaac Hays, from the Committee of Arrangements, announced that 520 delegates were now enrolled.

Dr. Hays presented an invitation from Dr. Ducachet, of St. Stephen's Church, to visit the church and see the Byrd monument, by Steinhauser. He stated that 12 o'clock at noon, on this day, had been fixed for this visit. The invitation was accepted.

A letter was read from Dr. Reyburn, of Missouri, suggesting that the large district in Missouri be divided into two parts. The district is seven hundred miles north and south, and four hundred miles east and west. The duties in so large a district as this, cannot be easily fulfilled by one chairman. By dividing the district, the reports will be more satisfactory than at the present time. The Doctor tendered his resignation.

Dr. Watson moved the acceptance of the resignation, and the reference of

the other portion of the communication to the Committee on Nominations—which was afterwards withdrawn.

Dr. Askew renewed the motion, and it was adopted.

A letter was read from Dr. E. B. Haskins, of Clarksville, Tenn., chairman of the Committee on Microscopical Investigations of Malignant Tumors, asking to be excused from making a report, inasmuch as he had not the necessary apparatus for ascertaining the facts incident to the subject.

The request of the gentleman was granted.

A report was received from the Committee on Publications, adverse to the publication in the *Transactions* of the reports of special committees. Referred to a special committee of five.

Dr. Frank H. Hamilton, of Buffalo, New York, made some additional remarks on the subject of fractured clavicle. The Doctor expressed an earnest hope that the Managers of the Pennsylvania Hospital would be more exact in making up their reports of the statistics of fractured clavicle, so that we may all be able to judge of the merit of the instrument, which has been used in such cases in that institution, for thirty years. He had known a surgeon to be mulcted in heavy damages for using that instrument in a case of fractured clavicle, because he could not accomplish all that he supposed he could by using it. He did not wish to speak harshly, but at the same time he called again upon the Managers of that institution to be more exact in their statistics on the subject of fractured clavicle, so that the medical faculty may be prevented being a grand Insurance Company for the whole world.

Dr. Thompson, of Delaware, called up his resolutions, offered yesterday, in reference to the appointment of committees on the Medical Topography of the country.

Dr. J. L. Atlee, of Lancaster, said that he noticed Chief Justice Lewis, of Pa., was on the floor of the house—he moved that he be invited to a seat on the platform. The motion was unanimously agreed to.

The Chief Justice was (amid much applause) escorted to the platform and seated on the right of the President.

Dr. Askew, of Delaware, offered as an appendage to the resolutions of Dr. Thompson, the following:—

Resolved, That all reports on the Medical Topography and prevailing diseases of States, shall, to entitle them to be received by this Association and published in the proceedings, be first approved by the medical societies of the State or Territory where such societies exist, and to which State or Territory such report refers.

Dr. Palmer, of Michigan, advocated the resolutions, and said that, while he was conscious of the difficulties in the way, he thought that great good would result from the appointment of the committees.

Dr. J. G. Orton, of Binghamton, N. Y., offered the following resolutions:—

Resolved, That each County Medical Society (or in parts of the country where such have not been established, any duly organized Medical Association) be requested to amend its Constitution by attaching thereunto the following article: "It shall be the duty of each member of this society to keep a faithful record of the diseases which may fall under his observation during each month, according to the classification adopted by the American Medical Association in May, 1847, stating the age and sex, occupation and nativity

of the patient, the average duration of the disease, and finally their recovery or death, and to report the same in writing to the secretary on or before the first day of February of each year, who shall transmit a digest thereof to the State Medical Society, and also to the appropriate committee appointed by the American Medical Association for its reception."

Resolved, That each incorporated Hospital, Infirmary and Asylum, be invited to furnish a copy of their annual reports for the use of the committee of their respective States.

Resolved, That the State committee appointed by this Association to report on the prevailing diseases of their respective localities, shall receive and arrange a digest of the reports transmitted to them by the secretaries of the various county societies, and to report the same at the annual meeting of this Association.

Resolved, That the 1st day of January be the time fixed at which the object of these resolutions shall be carried into effect, and that the several county societies and associations, be requested to amend their Constitutions as heretofore recommended, at as early a date as practicable, and to report to the State committee their willingness or unwillingness to acquiesce in the request of this Association.

On motion, the resolutions were referred to the Committee on Nominations.

Dr. Thompson, of Delaware, expressed a hope that the committee would go into immediate session, so that a report might be made as soon as possible.

Letters from Drs. Sutton and Benner, on the subject of epidemics, were referred to the Committee on Nominations.

Dr. Condie, of this city, submitted a voluminous report upon the subject of Tubercular Disease, accompanied by a vast array of facts, the gathering of about three years. He stated that the report would make at least 500 printed pages. The opinions advanced, he said, were "very heterodox."

On motion, Dr. Condie was permitted to publish the report in any manner he pleased, without reference to any obligations he may feel due to the Association.

Dr. Brainard, from the Special Committee "On the Constitutional and Local Treatment of Carcinoma," was continued another year.

Dr. Horace Green, from the Special Committee "On the Use and Effects of Applications of Nitrate of Silver to the Throat, either in Local or General Disease," was also continued another year.

A member from the Committee on Dysentery submitted a lengthy report upon the nature and treatment of that disease. Referred to the Committee on Publications.

The following circular was laid upon our table in the course of the proceedings:—

Circular.—To any Medical Gentleman of the United States or Canada.

DEAR SIR: The Committee appointed at the last meeting of the American Medical Association to investigate certain Statistics of Hydrophobia, bearing upon municipal regulations, have received but six communications detailing only sixteen cases of Hydrophobia (some of which, however, are exceedingly interesting, and for which the committee desire to make grateful acknowledgments to the gentlemen forwarding them). Under these circumstances, the committee are unwilling to do more at this time than to report progress and ask to be continued.

The object we have in view is not to enlighten the profession upon the subject, but to bring the knowledge already in possession of medical men to bear

upon the *public mind*, and influence our civil authorities in their municipal regulations regarding Hydrophobia. We believe that facts entirely militate against restricting "Dog Laws" to hot weather; and we think the advancement of science demands that this remnant of by-gone superstition should be purged from the statute-book. In Prussia, Poland, France, Russia, and many other countries in Europe, much attention has been given to this subject, and it is important in accomplishing our object, that we should ascertain, as far as practicable, how Hydrophobic Statistics in our extended country will compare with those in foreign countries, and may we not hope that, through the facilities afforded by the extensive ramifications of our cherished Association, the necessary statistics for the United States and Canada may be obtained?

The committee are unwilling to think that want of interest in a subject so important is the cause of their receiving so few communications, but rather that the knowledge of what was wanted was too circumscribed, if not too indefinite, and the time necessary to obtain it entirely too limited.

In a measure to remove these objections, the committee have prepared this circular, and would respectfully invite communications upon the subject from medical gentlemen in any part of the United States or Canada, who, either in their own practice, or as counsellors in that of others, may have witnessed cases of hydrophobia in *man or brute*—stating the day and month of *inoculation*—the period of *attack*—the *duration* of the disease—and, if in the human species, the *name, age, temperament, sex*, and residence of the individual.

The committee would also request you to state whether, in the place of your residence, any "Dog Laws" have been enacted; if so, to what period of the year, if any, they are restricted; and what has been the result of their operation.

An early reply to this circular will enable the committee to arrange the facts and prepare a report for the meeting of the Association in 1856.

We remain, &c.,

THOS. W. BLATCHFORD,

A. D. SPOON,

Committee.

TROY, 24th April, 1855.

Communications to be addressed to Dr. Thos. W. Blatchford, Troy, N. Y.

P. S. If the medical journals and newspapers throughout this country would call the attention of their readers to this subject, either by publishing this circular or otherwise, it would greatly facilitate the object the committee have in charge.

The hour of recess having arrived, the members took advantage of invitations to visit the Byrd Monument, in St. Stephen's Church, the Academy of Fine Arts, Academy of Natural Sciences, and the Central High School.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Association reassembled at 1 o'clock.

Dr. Mussey, of Ohio, read an interesting report upon the Use of Alcohol in Health and Disease. It abounded in facts illustrating the effects of alcohol upon the human system, and evinced extensive reading, and a laborious collation of medical testimony. Referred to the Committee on Publications.

Dr. Hays presented an invitation to the Association to visit the Pennsylvania Institution for Idiotic and Feeble-Minded Children, this afternoon. Coaches will be provided to take the members to Germantown. The invitation was accepted.

The Committee on Nominations, to which was referred so much of the

President's address as relates to the next place of meeting, recommended that no change be made in the place of holding the next annual meeting—which will, consequently, be held at Detroit.

A letter was read from Dr. R. J. Breckenridge, of Ky., chairman of Committee on Medical Literature, announcing that his report was ready, but that he was not able to present it himself, and asking its reference to the Committee on Publications.

Dr. Condie moved, that when received, the report be so referred.

A communication was read from Dr. W. H. Anderson, of Mobile, chairman of Committee on Medical Education, setting forth that his duties requiring an extensive foreign and domestic correspondence, his report was incomplete, but would be ready in season for publication in the *Transactions*.

A motion was made that the report, when received, be referred to the Committee on Publication.

Dr. Davis, of Illinois, hoped that the paper would not be referred without first being read. He was opposed to the principle of referring papers to the Committee on Publications, until the Association had had an opportunity of judging of their merits.

Dr. Merritt moved that the vote adopting the report of the Nominating Committee upon the subject of the appointment of committees be reconsidered, for the purpose of continuing two of the old committees.

This motion was suspended to admit the report of the Nominating Committee upon the resolutions in regard to the Medical Topography of the States and Territories.

The vote respecting the adoption of the report of the Committee on Nominations, in regard to the appointment of committees, was reconsidered, and Dr. Anderson was continued as chairman of the Committee on Medical Education, in lieu of Dr. J. B. Lindsley.

A resolution in regard to the registry of births and deaths was referred to the Nominating Committee.

On motion, the Association adjourned, it being 3 P. M.

At 4 o'clock, the members of the Association entered coaches and proceeded to the City Hospital, Blockley. They were received by the President of the Board of Guardians, Mr. F. M. Adams, and the Chief Resident Physician, Dr. A. B. Campbell, and conducted through the Hospital, and the Almshouse. In the evening, the members of the Association were received at the residences of Drs. Samuel Jackson, J. Pancoast, Henry Hartshorne, and Mr. Isaac Lea.

FOURTH DAY.—MORNING SESSION.

The Association assembled at nine o'clock, pursuant to adjournment, Dr. Wood in the chair.

The Secretary read the minutes of yesterday's meeting, which were approved.

Dr. Hays stated that the whole number of names registered now, amounted to 523.

Dr. Atlee offered a resolution that the report of Dr. Breckenridge, chair-

man of the Committee on Medical Literature, be referred to a committee of three for their approval, and then be handed to the Committee of Publication.

A member moved it go to the Committee on Publication direct, without any previous review.

Dr. Condie hoped that a report on such an important subject would not go to the committee without having been read before the Association. He hoped the committee would be continued, so that the chairman could be present next year, and read it.

The motion of Dr. Atlee was lost.

The motion to continue the committee was agreed to.

Dr. Hayward offered a resolution expressing the thanks of the Association to all who had, by attention and munificent hospitality, contributed to the enjoyment of the delegation. Unanimously adopted.

The committee appointed at St. Louis, to whom had been referred the paper of Dr. Phelps, entitled "Religion an Element of Medicine, or the Duties and Obligations of the Profession," reported, through Dr. J. L. Atlee, who moved that it is inexpedient to publish Dr. P.'s paper in connection with the transactions of the Association.

The report was adopted as the sense of the meeting, and the resolution agreed to.

A member offered a resolution returning thanks to the Directors of the Academy of Fine Arts, for their liberal offer to take charge of the stone for the Washington Monument, and transport it to Washington. Agreed to unanimously.

Dr. N. S. Davis, of Illinois, moved the following preamble and resolutions, which were referred to the Committee of Arrangements, with instructions to report on the same at the commencement of the next annual meeting:—

Whereas, The present mode of conducting the annual meetings of the Association affords but little opportunity for the discussion of strictly scientific questions and papers, and *whereas*, this has been regarded as a serious defect in the operation of our organization, impairing its scientific character; therefore

Resolved, That the daily sessions of the Association during each annual meeting be divided into two parts, the first to terminate at an hour not later than 12½ o'clock P. M. of each day, and to be devoted, as heretofore, to the general business of the Association. The second part, consisting of all the time which it is deemed advisable to remain in session each day, after 12½ o'clock P. M., to take the character of a scientific section, and to be devoted exclusively to the discussion of questions relating to the science and art of medicine.

Resolved, That the Association, in its capacity of a *Scientific Section*, having no power to act on any subject of a *scientific* character, may continue in session, whenever thought desirable, a longer period than in its more general capacity.

Dr. A. J. Semmes, of Washington, District of Columbia, offered the following, which was adopted:—

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to report to the Association, at its next annual meeting, what measures should be adopted to remedy the evils existing in the present methods of holding coroners' inquests by incompetent persons, by which the lives and liberties of the innocent may be jeopardized, and the ends of justice frustrated.

Dr. Semmes, of Washington, Dr. Hyle, of Wilmington, and Dr. Condie, of Philadelphia, were appointed.

Dr. J. L. Atlee offered the following resolutions, which were intended to counteract a recent recommendation of the Legislature of Michigan:—

Resolved, That to secure efficient teaching in medical schools, where a prime object is to enforce practical precepts, a large degree of union and harmony must exist among the teachers, and confidence be reposed in them on the part of their pupils.

Resolved, That any such unnatural union as the mingling of an exclusive system, such as Homœopathy, with Scientific Medicine, in a school, setting aside all questions of its untruthfulness, cannot fail, by the destruction of union and confidence, and the production of confusion and disorder, unsettling and distracting the minds of the learners, to so far impair the usefulness of teaching, as to render any school adopting such a policy unworthy the support of the profession.

Dr. A. B. Palmer, of the University of Michigan, in seconding the resolutions, desired permission to offer a few remarks. After briefly stating some of the peculiar features of the incorporation of the University, he went on to say that the institution is under the management of a board of Regents elected by the people, by whom the professors in the various departments of science and art are appointed. The Legislature has nothing to do with the appointment of professors. During the session of the Legislature the past winter, the admirers of homœopathy had made special effort, and had succeeded in obtaining a *recommendatory* action on their part, in reference to the establishment of a chair of homœopathy in the University. It had been represented to them, that a large part of the people of Michigan favored that peculiar mode of practice, and that it was but fair that its principles be inculcated in the State University.

The spirit of this recommendation is, and has been resisted, both by the Regents, and by the faculty and students of the medical department of the University.

Dr. Palmer wanted an expression of opinion by the Association on this matter. Legislatures should know that Homœopathy and Scientific Medicine should not, and cannot be united in one school—they are incompatible, and neither he or any of his colleagues could, or would continue in any school where such an absurdity was attempted.

Some of the medical journals have given an erroneous impression in regard to this action of the Legislature. The faculty are going to act energetically in this matter, and they ask the Association to co-operate with them in instituting a thorough and systematic inquiry, both in this country and in Europe, into the pretensions and practice of this delusion and imposture, that the minds of the people may be enlightened on the subject. As the friends of homœopathy in Michigan have raised the issue, the faculty of the University wish to meet it. Circulars of inquiry will soon be sent out, and the faculty hope that they will be promptly responded to.

The doctor repeated the assurance that on no account would the faculty tolerate a chair of homœopathy in the University, but that, to a man, they would resign their positions rather than submit to so absurd and humiliating an appointment.

The doctor's remarks were received with evident satisfaction by the members, as was shown by the frequent rounds of applause that greeted him.

Dr. Clendenin, of Ohio, offered the following:—

Resolved, That no State or local society shall be hereafter entitled to representation in this Association that has not adopted its Code of Ethics.

Resolved, That no State or local society that has intentionally violated, or discarded any article or clause in the Code of Ethics, shall longer be entitled to representation in this body.

A motion to lay the above on the table was lost.

Dr. Miltenberger, of Baltimore, offered an amendment, which was amended by Dr. J. L. Atlee to read as follows:—

Whereas, It has been brought before the notice of the American Medical Association that the State Medical Society of Ohio has violated, at their last meeting, Sec. 4th, Art. 1st, Chapter 2d, of its Code of Ethics; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Association be directed to inform the officers of that society that, unless such action be rescinded, they cannot be hereafter represented in this Association.

These were added to the resolutions of Dr. Clendenin, and adopted unanimously; the delegates from the society in question being forward in support of them.

Dr. Alfred Stillé offered the following resolutions:—

Resolved, That a special committee of five be appointed to report at the next meeting of the Association on the following question: Might not the present system of repeating the same lectures to the same classes, during two successive terms, be usefully modified by extending the lectures of each chair over two sessions, so as to embrace a systematic and complete discussion of each of the following subjects:—

1. Special, Regional, and General Anatomy, including illustrative references to Morbid Anatomy.
2. Inorganic, Organic, and Pharmaceutical Chemistry, and Toxicology.
3. General and Human Physiology; Hygiene; Medical Jurisprudence.
4. Medical Botany; Materia Medica; General Therapeutics.
5. General Pathology; Morbid Anatomy (Systematic); Practice of Medicine.
6. General Surgical Pathology, or Institutes of Surgery; Mechanical, Operative, and Medicinal Surgery.
7. Obstetrics; Diseases of Women; Diseases of Children.
8. Hospital Clinical Medicine and Surgery.

Resolved, That the committee, at an early day, address the several Medical Colleges, in regard to the proposed plan of instruction, requesting from them an official expression of opinion upon its merits and feasibility.

The chair appointed the following gentlemen as the committee, to whom the subject is referred:—

Dr. Alfred Stillé, of Philadelphia, chairman, Prof. Samuel Jackson, Philadelphia, Dr. John Bell, Philadelphia, Dr. John Watson, New York, Dr. J. L. Cabell, Charlottesville, Va.

Dr. Corson, of New York, read a volunteer report on the Influence of Lead on the Heart, which was referred to a special committee of three for examination.

The hour of recess now arrived, and a motion prevailed to dispense with the recess, and remain in session until final adjournment.

Dr. Thomas, of Baltimore, explained a simple method of preparing nitrate of silver for inhalation in diseases of the throat and chest. The apparatus was placed on the table, and, when put in motion, the nitrate of silver was thrown off in an impalpable powder. The subject was referred to a special committee of three.

Dr. Atlee called up a resolution, offered at the last meeting of the Association, directing the especial attention of the Committee on Epidemics to the subject of the contagiousness or non-contagiousness of cholera. The resolution was then adopted.

Dr. Davis said that the Association had returned thanks piecemeal, and he was very much afraid that some of the institutions visited had been overlooked. He moved that the Secretary be instructed to insert the names of any that had been omitted. Agreed to.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION.

The amendment to the Constitution, proposed by Dr. Gross at the last meeting, providing for the election of officers immediately before the adjournment of the Convention, instead of at its commencement, was called up, and, on motion of Dr. Davis, it was indefinitely postponed.

The amendment to the Constitution, providing that the Association meet on the second, instead of the first Tuesday of May, was called up, and its approval advocated by several of the New York delegation. A motion for indefinite postponement was agreed to.

Dr. Davis called up an amendment to the Constitution, offered at the last meeting, dispensing with the Nominating Committee, and then moved that it be indefinitely postponed. Agreed to.

The amendment to the Constitution, to change the title of "Committees on Epidemics" to "Committees on Prevalent Diseases," was, on motion, indefinitely postponed.

A member offered an amendment to the Constitution, by which the Recording Secretary and Treasurer of the Association are made permanent officers, and their travelling expenses directed to be paid. Laid over under the rule.

The following amendment to the Constitution was offered and laid over until the next meeting: "Any permanent member, who shall not pay for the published *Transactions* for three successive years, shall be considered as having withdrawn."

An amendment was offered to the Constitution, changing the name of the Association to that of "National Medical Congress," and providing that at least one meeting in three years be held in Washington, D. C. Laid over under the rule.

An amendment to the Constitution was offered to the effect that medical societies which do not adopt the Code of Ethics shall not be considered "in good standing." Laid over under the rule.

Dr. L. D. Scheetz, of Ohio, presented the following:—

Whereas, It has been found necessary to adopt some means of elevating the standard of education, both *professional* and *general*, among medical men, by those who are best acquainted with the sad and lamentable defi-

ciency which prevails in this respect among a large mass of the profession, and particularly in the Western States; and *whereas*, efforts to this effect at home have been opposed on the ground that more was exacted by such as took an active part in the matter than is required by the "American Medical Association;" and *whereas*, it is believed that the National Society can exert a beneficial influence over the whole country; therefore,

Resolved, That the Constitution of this Association be so amended as to require all delegates, before being allowed a seat in said Association, to satisfy the proper authorities that the societies which they represent, require graduation as a *sine quâ non* to membership therein; and that no person can become a permanent member, a member by invitation, or can be received as a delegate from any other body, unless he be a graduate of some respectable school.

Resolved, That the editors of the various medical journals of the United States be requested to publish the foregoing, so that an interest may be awakened upon this subject, and that Societies may be prepared to comply with the above requisitions, in case they meet the approval of this Association. Laid over under the rule.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS.

The Committee on Nominations reported the following committees for the present year:—

Committee on Prize Essays.—Drs. A. B. Palmer, Samuel Denton, A. R. Perry, Abram Sager, S. H. Douglass, Corydon La Ford, E. Andrews, all of Michigan.

Committee of Arrangements.—Drs. Zina Pitcher, Moses Gunn, G. B. Russell, A. S. Leland, Moses Stewart, Peter Klein, and J. A. Brown, of Detroit.

Committee on Plans of Organization for State and County Societies.—Drs. A. B. Palmer, Michigan; N. B. Ives, Connecticut; E. B. Haskins, Tennessee; Chas. Woodward, Ohio; Josiah Crosby, New Hampshire.

Committee on Medical Literature.—Drs. P. C. Gaillard, South Carolina; N. P. Monroe, Maine; Jas. Couper, Delaware; R. Hills, Ohio; A. Coffin, South Carolina.

Committee on Medical Education.—Drs. W. H. Anderson, of Alabama; J. B. Flint, Kentucky; P. H. Cabell, Alabama; Geo. Hayward, Massachusetts; E. B. Smith, Missouri.

Committee to procure Memorials of the eminent and worthy Dead.—Drs. P. A. Jewett, Conn.; Thos. F. Betton, Pa.; C. J. Blackburne, Ky.; Wm. M. Boling, Ala.; Zina Pitcher, Mich.

COMMITTEE ON MEDICAL TOPOGRAPHY.—*Maine*—J. C. Winston, of Bangor.

New Hampshire—Edmund R. Peaslee, of Dartmouth College.

Vermont—Joseph Perkins, of Castleton.

Massachusetts—George C. Shattuck, of Boston.

Rhode Island—Joseph Mauran, of Providence.

Connecticut—Chas. Hooker, of New Haven.

New York—Joseph M. Smith, of New York.

Pennsylvania—Jacob M. Gemmil, of Hollidaysburg.

New Jersey—Lyndon A. Smith, of Newark.

Delaware—Jas. M. Thompson, of Wilmington.

Maryland—Peregrine Wroth, of Chestertown.

District of Columbia—Thomas Miller.

Virginia—J. F. Peebles, of Petersburg.

North Carolina—O. F. Manson.

South Carolina—D. O. Cain, of Charleston.

Georgia—John F. Posey, of Savannah.

Alabama—S. W. Clanton, of Warsaw.

Mississippi—T. O. Grafton, of Rodney.

Louisiana—E. D. Fenner, of New Orleans.

Tennessee—E. B. Hoskins, of Clarksville.

Kentucky—W. L. Sutton, of Georgetown.

Ohio—G. Mendenhall, of Cincinnati.

Indiana—Vierling Kersey, of Milton.

Michigan—J. H. Beach, of Cold Water.

Illinois—John Evans, of Chicago.

Missouri—J. B. Alleyne, of St. Louis.

Wisconsin—A. S. Castleman, of Delafield.

Iowa—E. A. Arnold, of Davenport.

Minnesota—J. H. Murphy, Falls of St. Anthony.

U. S. Navy—Thomas Dillard, of Philadelphia.

U. S. Army—Clement A. Finley.

Committee on Registration of Marriages, Births, and Deaths.—Drs. R. M. Wilson, Hartford, Conn., *Chairman*; G. S. Palmer, Gardiner, Me.; Silas Cumming, Fitz William, N. H.; G. T. Elliott, Woodstock, Vermont; Ed. Jarvis, Dorchester, Mass.; Jos. Mauran, Providence, R. I.; Jno. H. Griscom, New York, N. Y.; H. Carpenter, Lancaster, Pa.; O. H. Taylor, Camden, N. J.; Lewis P. Bush, Wilmington, Del.; A. Snowden Piggot, Baltimore, Md.; David H. Tucker, Richmond, Va.; — Pitman, Tarboro', N. C.; Harry Lindsly, Washington, D. C.; Jno. L. Dawson, Charleston, S. C.; R. D. Arnold, Savannah, Ga.; A. Lopez, Mobile, Ala.; Jas. Jones, New Orleans, La.; R. C. Foster, Nashville, Tenn.; C. J. Blackburne, Covington, Ky.; Jno. Dawson, Columbus, O.; Edward Murphy, New Harmony, Ind.; A. D. Stebbins, Detroit, Mich.; J. V. Z. Blaney, Chicago, Ill.; Geo. D. Wilber, Mineral Point, Wis.; Wm. M. McPheeters, St. Louis, Mo.; J. D. Elbert, Keosauqua, Iowa; Jno. H. Murphy, Falls of St. Anthony, Minnesota.

Mississippi and Arkansas, blank.

SPECIAL COMMITTEES.—Dr. Lewis H. Steiner, of Washington, D. C., on Strychnia—its Chemical and Toxicological Properties.

Dr. Ashbury Evans, of Covington, Ky., on Tracheotomy in Epilepsy.

Dr. J. Taylor Bradford, of Augusta, Ky., on the Treatment of Cholera.

Dr. Charles Q. Chandler, of Rocheport, Mo., on Malignant Periodic Fevers.

Dr. H. A. Johnson, of Chicago, Illinois, on the Excretions as an Index to the Organic Changes in the System.

Dr. Henry J. Bigelow, of Boston, Mass., on Microscopical Investigation of Malignant Tumors.

Dr. E. H. Davis, of New York, on the Statistics of Calculous Diseases, and the Operations therefor.

Dr. J. S. Carpenter, on the Treatment and Curability of Reducible Hernia.

Dr. A. J. Fuller, of Maine, on the Best Treatment of Cholera Infantum.

Dr. William B. Page, of Philadelphia, on Injuries of the Joints.

Dr. Wilson Jewell, of Philadelphia, on the Statistics of Mortality in the United States.

Dr. J. Knight, of New Haven, Conn., on Endemic Fevers.

Dr. P. H. Cabell, of Ala., on the Native Substitutes for Cinchona, Indigenous to the Southern States.

Dr. James M. Newman, of Buffalo, N. Y., on the Sanitary Police of Cities.

Dr. L. M. Noble, of Le Roy, Ill., on Puerperal Fever and its Communicability.

Dr. J. M. Freer, of Chicago, Ill., on the Progress of General and Descriptive Anatomy.

Dr. J. M. Corson, of New York, on the Causes of the Impulse of the Heart, and the Agencies which Influence it in Health and Disease.

Dr. D. Meredith Reese, of New York, on the Causes of Infant Mortality in Large Cities, the Source of its Increase, and the Means for its Diminution.

Dr. Mark Stephenson, of Vermont, on the Treatment best adapted to each

Variety of Cataract, with the Method of Operation, Place of Election, Time, Age, &c.

Dr. J. B. Coleman, of New Jersey, on the Effect of Mercury on the Living Animal Tissues.

Dr. T. G. Richardson, of Louisville, Ky., on the Diversity of the Venereal Poison.

Dr. J. B. Flint, of Louisville, Ky., on the best mode of rendering the Medical Patronage of the National Government tributary to the honor and improvement of the Profession.

Dr. M. M. Latta, of Goshen, Indiana, on whether there are any means by which the growth of the Fœtus in Utero may be controlled without injury to mother or child.

Dr. Thos. Miller, of Washington, D. C., on Toxicology.

Dr. E. R. Peaslee, of Hanover, N. H., on Inflammation, its Pathology, and its Relation to the Reparative Process.

Dr. D. D. Thompson, of Louisville, Ky., on the Remedial Effects of Chloroform.

Dr. Wm. Clendenin, of Cincinnati, Ohio, on Epidemic Erysipelas.

Dr. C. G. Comegys, of Cincinnati, Ohio, on the State of the Urine in Tubercular Disease.

ART. II.—*An Essay on Animal and Vegetable Life.*

By JOHN B. PHILLIPS, M. D.

IN the wide domain of nature there are two worlds, the *animate* and the *inanimate*, corresponding in a certain degree with the spiritual and the material worlds. Between the higher forms of the one, and the lower forms of the other, the line of demarcation is sufficiently well drawn, and they exhibit phenomena so obviously different as to completely distinguish them from each other. Nevertheless, there is a point where they seem to approach and blend, like two streams mingling together, as in crystallization, where the typical force which determines the form of the crystal presents a striking analogy to organic force in plants and animals. There are many who regard animal and vegetable existence as merely a higher development of the inorganic world. I am far from entertaining any such idea. As I said at the commencement, I believe that there are *two* worlds sufficiently distinguished from each other, both equally a production of the same creative power. If we go to the scriptural account, we find it stated that in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. And the firmament was made to divide the waters from the waters, and the waters were gathered together and the dry land appeared.

And then "God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose *seed is in itself*, upon the earth; and it was so." "And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind; and it was so." And finally, the Lord formed man out of the dust of the earth, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and he became a living soul.

Of course, this proves nothing upon the point mooted above; it only goes to show, what all observation and science confirm, that the work of creation was a *progressive* one, proceeding step by step from the production of great masses of inert matter, up to its crowning work, the creation of man.

It is interesting here to remark the emphasis which is given in this account to the *reproductive function* in speaking of plants and animals. In the inanimate world there is no new production or evolution of new matter; no reproduction, hence nothing is said here in regard to it. But when it comes to speak of *animate* objects, as if to make a broad distinction between them, this function is specially emphasized. It speaks of the grass and herb *yielding seed*. The fruit tree yielding fruit *after his kind*, and as though this were not explicit, it adds, *whose seed is in itself*. Again, it speaks of the earth bringing forth living creatures after his kind, cattle and creeping things, and beasts of the earth *after his kind*.

This leads us to one of the most important distinctions in the two grand divisions of nature. In the inorganic world there is no such thing as reproduction, no like producing like, each after its kind; it is the same to day as when first created; nothing has been added, nothing subtracted. True, changes of a certain kind are continually occurring from physical and chemical causes. Islands are submerged and new islands arise out of the sea. Mountains are thrown up by volcanic force; valleys and lakes are filled up by the force of running water; solid rocks are melted down to form the soil by chemical agency; but all these changes are totally different from many of the phenomena exhibited by living beings.

Take the one already alluded to—the power by which like produces like constitutes a force entirely *unique*. It has no

counterpart in the universe. The astronomer with optic glass may peer into the utmost bounds of space; he may discover new stars, new worlds, and systems of worlds, but they will not differ materially from worlds already discovered; he may reveal to us new truths, and evolve laws which may astonish and overwhelm us in the contemplation of them, but they will still be merely physical laws relating to dead inert masses of matter.

We need not travel beyond the solar system to discover another world. On the contrary, should we reverse the glass of the astronomer and turn our attention to the life phenomena, we may here discover the *only* other world that exists in the creation of God; more wonderful in its revelation, and more exalted in its character, inasmuch as it was the last and crowning work of His hand.

Without pushing this parallelism further, I propose in the present essay to speak in a somewhat general way of some of the phenomena of *animal and vegetable life*.

I shall not waste time at the threshold by attempting to define what life is! Some one has said that "Life is the result of all those forces by which death is resisted," but I do not see that we are much instructed by the definition. Notwithstanding all the time, and effort, and thought that has been bestowed upon it, life still remains to be the greatest mystery which the human intellect has ever attempted to grasp!

In this our limited sphere we are not permitted to know the ultimate causes and essences of things. We know nothing of matter but its properties, its revelations, and its laws. As to the *cause* of light, heat, electricity, galvanism, or gravitation, we are utterly in the dark. To know these things is the prerogative of a higher state of intelligence, and all attempts to "jump the life to come," however well intentioned, must ever prove barren and fruitless, or if they yield fruit at all, like that we read of in the eastern tale, it will turn to dust and ashes in the grasp.

But it must not be supposed that, because we are ignorant of the *essential nature* of the vital principle, that therefore we can know nothing. This is far from being the case. Our opportunities for investigation are equally as extensive in this, as in any other department of rational inquiry.

Suppose, for a moment a person just commencing his investi-

gation in this direction; he might derive some important suggestions from the changes of the seasons, in their effect upon animal and vegetable life. We are now living in the depths of winter, what a change since six months ago! The hills are no longer clad in green, no flowers bloom on the plain. The north wind whistles through leafless branches, the feathered songsters have deserted our forests; the fishes are petrified in our frozen lakes, no hum of insect is heard in the air. Death, as it were, riots and triumphs over life. These phenomena naturally suggest to us that cold is inimical to life.

But if we wait a few short months, the sun, which has already commenced his steady march toward the equinox, bringing with him the warm south wind, will melt the icy breath of the north, and repair the waste and desolation of winter. Again will life advance his standard in our midst; his flag will wave upon the branches of our giant oaks; again shall we see the hills robe themselves in their bright investiture of green, and all the earth, and air, and waters, will be teeming and redolent with the evidences of a redundant life.

What will this teach, but that *heat* in a certain amount is necessary to animal and vegetable existence? But this is not all we may learn from these changes. The plant that will spring out of the earth in a few months, will not be the same that flourished the year preceding; that has utterly perished, and been resolved into its original elements. But, it has left behind it its *seed*, "*the seed which was in itself.*" The winds of autumn have shaken it from its stalk, successive rains have buried it beneath the soil, where it now lies concealed. In the warm spring days this little seed will evince the motion and stir of life; it will thrust forth its leaves to drink the air and sunshine, and thus go on increasing until it shall have filled its cycle of existence.

This leads us directly to the consideration of *another* essential element in all animal existence, viz: the *seed*, or, more properly, the *germ*, which is contained within it.

The essential and indispensable conditions of life, are not as numerous as might be supposed, but these few are absolutely imperative. They may be stated to be:—

First.—A germ, endowed with organic or life force.

Second.—A fluid plasma, or organizable material surrounding

this germ, constituting its pabulum or food; by means of which the various organs of the plant are developed until they can assimilate food for themselves.

Third.—Heat of a definite temperature.

Fourth.—Atmospheric air.

The germ is the seat of the vital principle; it contains within its narrow compass, that "*vis vitæ*," without which no life could exist.

In the whole universe of God, there is nothing perhaps more wonderful or mysterious. It is invisible to the naked eye, requiring a microscope of 400 diameters for its observation. But this point, this speck of dust, is the connecting link between all the generations that are past, and all the generations that are to come. It stands like the present, between two eternities! It is the child of the past, the parent of the future.

The question now arises, by virtue of what particular properties, is it thus enabled to fill a rôle so important?

We know that by its presence in the germinating seed, and in the egg of the oviparous, and ovum of viviparous animals, certain specific results are produced, which are in their nature completely "*sui generis*," that the material with which it is in contact is made to undergo certain modifications and transformations, by means of which, out of unorganized materials, a complete organism is evolved, and the very dust of the ground, as it were, is made to assume and exercise the high attributes of vitality.

The force by which this is effected has been variously termed, germ force, organic force, life force; all of which we may regard as synonymous terms.

The character and nature of this germ force have not yet been explained. We can observe its manifestations, and trace out its effects, but as to its ultimate nature, we are left more or less to conjecture. Quite recently, a very interesting hypothesis has been started in relation to it, to which we will give a passing notice. I allude to that founded upon the identity, or correlation which has been shown to exist between the various physical forces in nature, such as light, heat, electricity, galvanism, chemical forces, &c. These, it is found, are only different states or modifications of one great force.

This doctrine they now propose to carry up from the inorganic

to the organic world. This is the view advocated by Dr. Carpenter in the last edition of his work.

"It seems, then," says this author, "to be the legitimate expression of the dynamical conditions requisite for the production of the phenomena, which we distinguish as vital, to say that they are dependent, directly or indirectly, upon the *physical forces* pervading the universe, which, acting through organized structure as their material substratum, manifest themselves as vital force, one of the most characteristic operations of this being the production of new tissue, which, in its turn, may become the instrument of a similar metamorphosis. The plant, when acted upon by light, forms certain organic compounds, at the expense of the water, carbonic acid, and ammonia, of the soil and atmosphere, decomposing these binary compounds into their four elements, and uniting these again into ternary and quaternary combinations of a very peculiar character; and the light, by whose agency alone this process can be effected, may be considered as metamorphosed into the peculiar *affinity*, or chemical force, by which the elements of these compounds are held together. The pabulum thus generated, is applied by the vegetable organism to the extension of its own structure, the vital force requisite for this purpose being sustained by heat acting *ab externo*; and thus the fabric may be augmented to an almost unlimited extent, every increase of surface affording a new instrument for the agency of light, and thus, affording the conditions requisite for the production of an additional amount of organic compounds. The whole *nisus* of vegetable life may be considered as manifesting itself in this production; and, in effecting it, each organism is not only drawing material, but force from the universe around it."

It is rather a singular circumstance that the Professor of the Institutes of Medicine in the University of Pennsylvania, to whom of right belongs the credit of *originating* this doctrine of the correlation of the physical forces, should hesitate to advance this generalization as an explanation of vital phenomena. As a general rule, that parental partiality, which it is natural to entertain toward intellectual offspring, is more liable to be carried to extremes than otherwise; and all the world agree that there is something to be pardoned to this feeling. It therefore seems to be a special mark

of intellectual temperance on the part of the professor alluded to above, that he should have limited the application of his doctrine to the physical forces alone (perhaps, also, including nerve force); not allowing himself to be lured by the beauty of a theory to carry it beyond the bounds warranted by facts; while, at the same time, we find Dr. Carpenter, and other eminent men his juniors in this doctrine, loudly proclaiming the identity of the physical and vital forces, as seen in the extract above.

As to the merits of the argument in this controversy, I have little difficulty in deciding. I should be constitutionally disposed to look *beyond* a "material substratum" for the explanation of life phenomena. As I said at the beginning, I believe there are two worlds. In these latter days the existence of the material world does not seem doubted; but there are still some things in heaven and earth not to be explained by the material philosophy. We live in an age of materialism. Science, commerce, the arts, and even religion, seem threatened to be overwhelmed in its vortex. It is meet that this tide should be resisted; not certainly to deny or resist the truth, but to keep watch and guard that no established, no sacred landmark should be carried away without reasons ample and incontrovertible.

In this point of view, I think the doctrine advocated by Dr. Carpenter would be one step in the wrong direction; the next step would obviously be that *mind* is nothing but another metamorphosis of the same force.

I see no difficulty whatever in admitting the existence of germ force separate and distinct from any other. On the contrary, it would appear nothing but reasonable, that existences so totally dissimilar as a stone or a lump of earth, and a man, should have some fundamental difference in their essential nature.

The first exception I take to these extracts is, that the simple production of new tissue is *not* the most remarkable characteristic of vital force. On the contrary, when the vital force is altered, weakened, or depraved, the production of new tissue may still go on as we see in cancerous and fungoid growths, and these tissues are often produced with far greater rapidity than the proper tissues of the body. But these, though "new," are not normal tissues. And why? Simply because they have been produced beyond the guiding and regulating control of the vital force. Their existence

is an infallible evidence of the disturbance of the vital force, wherever they are found. It would therefore appear that vital force is not simply concerned in the production of new tissue so much as in the limiting, controlling, and regulating its production. When the functions of the cerebellum are deranged, muscular action is not lost, but only the conducting power; the erratic movements which follow are analogous to the chaotic character of fungoid growths. It is the plastic power which forms the individual after the ideal type of the species.

Light, says Dr. Carpenter, is metamorphosed into a "peculiar affinity" in the plant. Here he seems to have overlooked the fact, that light is not simple in its nature or effects. Besides its luminous, it has chemical as well as calorific properties; and it is the chemical properties that are required for the production of plants, as will hereafter appear.

The chemical action of light upon the plant is limited to the preparation of its pabulum; and it has not been shown wherein it is more "peculiar" in this respect than in many others. It seems to me that its action in daguerreotyping is equally remarkable, equally "peculiar."

The chemical property of light is not an occasional or "peculiar," but a constant one. No metamorphosis is required to act upon the leaves of plants, more than upon the plate of the daguerreotype. In order to determine the question whether it is metamorphosed into vital force, Dr. Carpenter has evidently commenced at the wrong end; he takes the plant when it is in leaf, in the prime of its existence, when the vital force is already formed, and is in full activity. The germ has now divided and subdivided, and filled the whole structure with tissue germs, and all that it now requires for continued existence, is nourishment by the proper food. We must go back and commence at the starting point—the *seed*. And here let us examine whether this seed, *per se*, is capable of extracting force from the universe around. Or whether it does not contain within itself a force which is its most essential attribute; not a metamorphosis of any mere physical force; not struck out by chance during the early changes of germination, but an independent and original endowment derived from the parent, and reaching back to the mind of the Creator himself.

Dr. Carpenter intimates that light is changed into organic force

in the case of the plant. Now, is light necessary for the germination of the plant? I am not certain that we have any very positive knowledge on this point, but it has heretofore been considered that *darkness*, and not light, is requisite to this process. The seed is buried beneath the soil, excluded from the light. With heat, moisture, and oxygen, a seed will germinate better, it has been thought, without light than with it. The ovum in utero is excluded from its influence. Hence, whatever explanation may be assigned, it cannot be light which undergoes this change.

If the germinal part be extracted from the seed, no matter in what circumstances it may be placed, by what influences it may be surrounded, or what forces may be brought to bear upon it, the result is the same—a complete failure in eliciting anything like vital phenomena.

Place a fecundated egg in the proper material conditions, and a *living organism* is the result. Place an unfecundated one in precisely the same circumstances, and we have nothing but a mass of putrefaction.

This simple fact is in itself a host; and it seems to me utterly inexplicable upon any other hypothesis than, that the germ is endowed with a peculiar, original formative power, whereby *life* and *form* are evolved out of the *formless* and *inanimate*.

TO BE CONTINUED.

PROCEEDINGS OF MEDICAL SOCIETIES.

ART. III.—*Extracts from the Minutes of the New York Pathological Society.* Specially reported for the New Jersey Medical Reporter, by E. LEE JONES, M. D., Secretary.

REGULAR MEETING, March 14, 1855.

Removal of Astragalus.—Dr. DETMOLD presented the *astragalus*, removed by him in November, from a patient who dislocated the foot. All attempts to reduce the dislocation had failed. The *astragalus* penetrated the skin. He removed the bone, an operation frequently performed in such circumstances. After the operation the foot looks well, there usually being but little deformity or shortening of the limb. Many cases, however, succumb to the

operation, in consequence of the very tedious process of healing the part, and the frequent occurrence of severe inflammation. It is five months since the operation was performed—openings have been required from time to time; and, at present, the skin over the external malleolus is exceedingly thin.

In a similar case he should hesitate as to the advisability of removing the astragalus, in preference to amputating the foot, according to Syme's plan, or the more preferable osteo-plastic operation proposed by Peregoff, a Russian surgeon.

Dr. BATCHELDER has operated twice in similar cases, unsuccessfully—in one instance the patient died in ten days, from tetanus; in the other, amputation was subsequently performed.

Dr. MARKOE referred to a case operated upon by Dr. De Camp, Surgeon U. S. Army, at Governor's Island, some eighteen months ago. The patient, a young Irishwoman, was received into the New York Hospital, eight months after the operation; the shortening was less than half an inch; she had no power to bear her weight. He was favorably impressed with the operation.

Strangulated Intestine, with Pleuritic Effusion.—Dr. FINNELL presented a case of *strangulated intestine*, taken from a man, aged 24, who died March 9th, after an illness of four days. He first complained of pain and distress over the region of the stomach, accompanied with headache, thirst, and fever. After the second day, he commenced vomiting, which continued at intervals until a few hours previous to death. At the *autopsy*, twenty hours after death, the liver was found enlarged and fatty. Both kidneys were granular; the left one containing a small quantity of pus. The stomach was about half full of yellow fluid; the ileum was twisted upon itself several times, forming a complete strangulation; the intestines, above and below this point, were empty, nor was there any sign of inflammation present. On opening the chest, it was found that the right pleural cavity contained a quart of purulent fluid, with recent fibrinous exudation, covering the entire pleura. He (Dr. F.) attributed his death to acute pleurisy.

Dr. CLARK remarked as to the alleged cause of death, he could not recall a case of single, uncomplicated pleurisy terminating fatally in so short a time, as the one just related, or in any part of the acute stage. Louis says that pleuritis is the least fatal of the acute inflammations.

Dr. GILMAN referred to an examination made by him, at the request of the coroner, many years since, of a negro, who received a stab of a knife in the breast; the wound not, however, penetrating the cavity of the chest. He was sick a short time, about fourteen days. He died of *pleurisy*—nothing else was found. The stab was in one *side* of the chest, and the *pleurisy* on the *other*. This he considered an instance of uncomplicated pleuritis, terminating fatally in the acute stage.

Wounds of the Heart.—Dr. Finnell next presented a portion of the integument of the outer part of the thigh, pierced in two places by a pistol ball. The particulars of the case have been fully commented upon by the daily papers. The wound was received on Sunday morning, between 12 and 1 o'clock. He died on the Thursday week following.

A *post-mortem* examination was made by Dr. Finnell. He found two wounds on the surface of the body—one in the lower and outer portion of the thigh, the other in the chest. The one in the thigh had two openings about an inch apart, and measuring a quarter of an inch in diameter. It passed through just beneath the skin without touching the muscle of the leg. The ball in the chest entered the sternum just at its junction with the cartilage of the fifth rib, passing through the bone and pericardium into the substance of the heart, where it was found. On raising the breast-bone and exposing the pericardium, it was found very much distended, measuring five inches in its transverse diameter, and six in its vertical. It contained about thirty ounces of a sero-sanguineous fluid. The external surface of the heart was covered with fibrinous exudation, the recent product of inflammation. The heart was washed and laid aside with no suspicion that the ball was lodged in it until after nearly two hours' search in the cavity of the chest, and especially along the side of the spine. At last the heart was very carefully felt over, and the bullet was found imbedded in its muscular texture. On making an incision it was exposed. Its lodgement was in the septum, between the ventricles, about an inch and a half from the apex of the heart, and a quarter of an inch from its surface. The muscular substance had united over the ball and healed so far that the point of entrance was obliterated. He lived for twelve days without any palpitation, or any fainting or syncope such as is usually experienced in a morbid condition of the heart. Its action was perfectly regular. There is no question but that, under favorable circumstances, he might have recovered, and experienced little, if any, inconvenience from the ball. Four or five days after he was shot, he was quite strong. He died from pericarditis. It is probable that, on Wednesday night, the effusion began to come on, and it rapidly increased. At 9 o'clock on Thursday morning it suddenly increased, and he sunk immediately. The lungs were pale and oedematous. The liver, kidneys, stomach, and other organs, presented an unusually fine view of organs in a sound condition. The whole body was a most perfect specimen of fine muscular development; even to the ends of his toes the muscles were remarkably developed.

Dr. DETMOLD remarked that similar cases were not unknown. Baron Larrey records one instance of a man who received a wound in the thorax from a musket ball: he went about laboring appa-

rently under nothing serious; he suddenly died. The bullet was found free in the cavity of the left ventricle. Several other cases are mentioned by him.

Dr. CLARK referred to two instances on the records of the Society, where the heart was pierced through by a sharp instrument, one patient living about thirty days, the other eleven days.

Dr. MARKOE remembers one case living two days after receiving a stab in the heart; another lived six days, the instrument having passed through the left ventricle.

Dr. CHURCH, in a *post-mortem*, once found a needle on one of the valves of the aorta.

Dr. PURPLE mentioned an instance, where the heart was transfixed entirely. The patient lived eleven days. Another case is recorded in a medical journal, edited by the late Dr. Drake, of Cincinnati, of a negro, who shot himself; he lived sixty-six days; *two* shot were found in the left ventricle, and *one* in the right auricle.

Dr. JENKINS mentioned an instance where a piece of a ramrod, three inches long, entered the heart—the patient living twelve days.

Dr. BATCHELDER instanced a case, related by Sir Astley Cooper, of a soldier who received a bayonet wound, passing through the colon, stomach, and diaphragm, into the heart, and living nine hours.

Chronic Pneumonia.—Dr. Clark presented a *lung*, much contracted, on section, having the appearance commonly termed *chronic pneumonia*. It doubtless had been the seat of tubercles, which had been removed. In September, the right side of the chest was much enlarged, and found filled with serous fluid, the heart crowded to the left nearly an inch, dulness throughout on percussion, and no respiratory murmur, but bronchial respiration posteriorly. About the middle of October, the fluid subsided, and tuberculous cavities were recognized. The heart was then gradually drawn to the right side, as the fluid subsided, and the chest contracted, so that the apex was finally found three and a half or four inches from the median line on the right side. It occupied a space on the right side exactly corresponding with its natural position on the left, while over the left præcordial region resonance was peculiarly clear.

Post-mortem examination showed the right lung firm and contracted—presenting the conditions of chronic pneumonia. There was a cavity of considerable size; organized false membrane existed on the pleura. The points in the case were, the complete degeneration and uselessness of one lung, and the entire removal of the tubercular matter by softening. The other lung presented the common appearances of tubercular disease; it was enlarged, as if to replace the function of the lung of the other side, and

crowded over the mediastinal space, following the heart in its retreat to the right. Whether this displacement of the heart depended upon the marked contraction of the left lung or the expansion of the right, did not clearly appear, though probably the former was the cause of the change.

Dr. Clark next laid before the society a specimen of soft cancer of the bladder, in the name of Dr. Jas. Hedges, of Elizabethtown. The history of this case will be given at some other time.

Valvular Disease of Heart.—Dr. Clark next presented a specimen of some interest—the ascending, transverse, and descending aorta and valves, taken from a lady, forty-five years of age, who had suffered from angina pectoris. She enjoyed good health until some two years since; she then complained of shortness of breath, increased on going up stairs, or by any sudden emotion. Two and a half months before death, paroxysms of cardiac oppression became more marked, accompanied by a heavy dull pain, extending to the left and sometimes to the right arm. The pain was increased by exertion. During one of her attacks, he was called in the morning about 3 o'clock, and found her suffering, as if an immense weight of ice was placed on the chest, the cold diffusing itself over the whole surface of the body. The heart beat with great force and increased energy. Physical examination gave evidence of moderate enlargement of the heart, attended by a double murmur; the first, most distinct, at the second intercostal space, near the sternum on the right side. Aneurism was at first thought to exist; but the conclusion arrived at was moderate hypertrophy, with double valvular disease. At the *post-mortem* examination of the aortic valves, none were found healthy—atheromatous deposit was abundant; the middle valve was short, and drawn down close to the artery; behind it was a long deposit; the aorta was enlarged for an inch and a half, which probably accounted for the unusual position of the sound heard on the right side.

Singular Effect of Disease of Liver.—Dr. COCK referred to a case reported some time since, by Dr. Isaacs, in which one lung was entirely obliterated. He would, with the consent of the Society, call attention to a patient whom he had seen. He was a single man, twenty-three years of age, of general good health. Some time previously, without any evident cause, the surface of the body gradually became black. At the time of death, on parts not exposed, the skin resembled that of a mulatto. He, at times, evinced some aberration of mind. The most minute examination could locate no disease on any organ. *Post-mortem* revealed the brain normal; the kidney small, but healthy; the liver, natural in size, had a peculiar look, and, on being cut into, its tissue was consolidated to the extent of one inch.

REGULAR MEETING, March 28, 1855.

Dr. BATCHELDER read an abstract of the case, mentioned by him at the last meeting, of *wound of the heart*, reported by Sir Astley Cooper.

Perforating Ulcer of Stomach.—Dr. C. D. SMITH presented a specimen of *perforating ulcer of the stomach*, taken from a man, aged 40 years, of robust constitution, and correct habits, a grocer; had always been in good health, with the exception of occasionally complaining of a gnawing pain in the epigastrium after eating, which was relieved by vomiting. This pain occurred about once a month during a period of two years. The attacks usually coming on after dinner, with more or less severity, continued only a short time, and always ending in vomiting. He took nothing for them, nor ever consulted a physician. Since January last, these attacks have become somewhat more frequent, and have followed other meals. On Saturday, the 17th inst. (a cold, damp day), he was much exposed to the weather. He retired to bed about 10 o'clock P. M., exceedingly fatigued, and suffering somewhat from pain in his stomach, extending over the chest. At 3 o'clock, on Sunday morning, he was awakened by severe flying pains over the abdomen, extending up the sides and chest, which increased in severity. When I was called to him, at about 7 o'clock, he was found with a natural expression of countenance, tongue moist and clean, the skin cool, a little thirst, pulse natural, but complaining of great pain in the stomach and bowels, of a paroxysmal character. There was no pain on pressure, nor very great heat of abdomen. Had had no movement from his bowels for two days. Had vomited once or twice after drinking water. 11 o'clock. Remedies had been ineffectual—suffering continued; condition about the same; no vomiting, however. 4 o'clock P. M. Pain continued without intermission; thirst; pulse 100; pain upon slight pressure all over the abdomen, which was hard and retracted; great restlessness; no operation from bowels; no vomiting. 9 o'clock P. M. Growing rapidly worse; pulse 120 to 130—small; anxious countenance; great tenderness on pressure over the abdomen; no tympanitic distension; thirst; restlessness; profuse perspiration; no vomiting. He continued in this condition till 1 o'clock, Monday morning, when there was a sudden cessation of pain; the surface became gradually cold; pulse less and less perceptible, and about 2 o'clock he died, retaining his intellectual faculties to the last. *Post-mortem eleven hours after death.*—Upon opening the abdomen, the stomach and bowels were distended with gas. There was in the cavity from a pint to a pint and a half of yellow-colored fluid, of a fetid odor, containing albuminous flocculi and pus; the stomach and intestines were glued together with recent false membrane; the peritoneal coat

was intensely red and thickened. On examining carefully the intestines, no other lesion was found, but an opening, a little less than a quarter of an inch in diameter, was discovered in the pyloric extremity of the stomach.

Dr. Clark described the ulcer—of a slow, perforating nature, thickening the tissue as it advances, situated outside the pyloric orifice. He inquired as to the time, after eating, at which vomiting occurred. It was a matter of some importance as respects a diagnosis; in cancer of this organ it almost always took place at a fixed period. Dr. Smith replied that vomiting occurred one hour after eating.

Dr. CLARK then presented, for Dr. S. A. Purdy, a case similar to the last one, with the following account:—

Joanna B., aged 20, a native of Sweden, came to reside in the family of Mr. M., as waiter, about three weeks previous to her death. She is described as having been pale and sickly in appearance, and during the time she resided at the house where she died, she complained of a pain, described by her as dragging in its sensation. She had loss of appetite, vomited two or three times, and appeared to be feeble and languid. The most prominent symptom, however, was pain at the epigastrium. She was as well as usual until 10 or 11 o'clock on Sunday, March 18th, when, while lying in bed, she was seized with a very severe pain in the region of the stomach, so severe as to cause her to cry out and start up violently. This pain continued, without intermission, till 2 A. M., when Dr. Purdy saw her; at that time she was extremely prostrated, pulse feeble, surface cool, and seemed to be sinking rapidly, in consequence of her intense suffering, caused by some internal difficulty of a very grave nature. Upon examination, there was tenderness over the whole surface of the abdomen, which was very much distended and tympanitic, and felt almost as hard as a board. There was no evidence of hernia, nothing, in fact, from the external examination, that indicated the nature of her disease. The treatment was the exhibition of opiates, with fomentations to the abdomen. At 9 o'clock in the morning she was more quiet, and somewhat relieved of her pain, but the tenderness and distension of the bowels remained; pulse rapid and feeble, and her general appearance the same as when first seen. About 1 o'clock she suddenly began to sink, and died in half an hour, about fifteen hours from the time of her seizure.

Dr. Clark regarded these cases as very interesting, when considered together, the most noticeable point in them being the shortness of sickness, in this case death occurring in fifteen hours after the supposed time of perforation; in the other about twenty-four hours.

Dr. SCHILLING remarked he had seen but two similar cases in Ward's Island Hospital; they were more common in Europe. At

Vienna Hospital, some twenty cases a year were observed, more frequently in chlorotic, anæmic girls. Not uncommonly ulcers were found, which had cicatrized; he possessed one such specimen himself.

Rum Stomach.—Dr. FINNELL presented the *stomach*, removed from a woman who had been freely partaking of strong drink; she was carried to the station-house, and the next morning was found dead. The stomach exhibited the common results of the effects of long-continued stimulation, being covered over with dark patches; the kidneys were intensely red; there was also an aneurism of the arch of the aorta, together with abundant atheromatous deposit.

Dr. Clark called attention to the mucous surface of the stomach, of a yellowish cream-color, studded over with white, opaque spots, somewhat resembling a granular kidney. Sometimes this white deposit, in hard drinkers, covers the membrane throughout, the result probably of chronic inflammation, induced by frequent and continued stimulation.

Chronic Pneumonia, again.—Dr. Clark referred to the case of *chronic pneumonia*, presented at the previous meeting. On examination by the microscope, scarcely any air-cells were visible; its substance seemed composed of elastic fibrous tissue. He observed that, in chronic pneumonia, the progress of inflammation was different from that of acute, the fibrinous exudation in the first being *extra-vesicular*, and the contrary in the latter. He did not consider chronic pneumonia as an idiopathic disease, but regarded its existence as a consequence of tubercles.

Complicated Effects of an Abscess.—Dr. Clark then presented the bladder, urethra, and rectum, taken from a man, 45 years of age, illustrating the effects of an abscess in the recto-vesical space, extending forward over the pubis; air discharged from the bladder; pus escaping through the catheter afterwards; the urethra pierced by the catheter, about an inch and a half from neck of bladder; death from general paralysis; hardening of the brain. * * *

Uterine Polypi.—Dr. BARKER presented two polypi of the uterus; he removed the larger one on March 3d, the other on Sunday. The larger one was in the cavity of the uterus. The patient was the mother of five children. For the last two years she was subject to irregular hemorrhage; it was attached by a pedicle to the upper part of the cavity of the womb. He removed it by excision, in preference to the ligature, on account of the size of the pedicle, the probable length of time to effect a cure, and the irritative fever likely to follow the use of the ligature. Smaller one removed on Sunday. She had suffered from hemorrhage for a year. The polypus was external to the cavity of the womb.

Rapid Course of Pulmonary Disease—Cirrhosis of Liver.—Dr. METCALFE presented the heart and lungs of a woman, between 61

and 62 years of age, who had died of rapid pulmonary consumption. The patient had been, for many years, keeper of a much-frequented tavern, and had habitually consumed very large quantities of spirituous and malt liquors, in drinking with her customers.

Her previous health, with the exception of a smart attack of acute articular rheumatism, forty years previously, had been very good. She had gone through several confinements, without any trouble. For some years, she had increased in flesh, and at the time of the first visit (Nov. 6, 1854), had grown extremely corpulent, weighing at least two hundred pounds. There had been no consumption in any member of her family, nor had she ever suffered from coughs or colds.

Three weeks before my first visit she had complained of a tickling in the throat, when, without coughing, she had raised two or three mouthfuls of frothy, red blood. This had continued, at intervals, up to the time of my being consulted by Dr. Fleet, her regular medical attendant.

There was then great dyspnoea (36 per minute); the pulse 84, of good size, but weak and irregular. The countenance pale and anxious. As well as could be seen for the fat, the chest expanded symmetrically on inspiration. No dulness on percussion, except in a slight degree over costal ends of second, third, and fourth right ribs. No displacement of heart's apex, but its sound transmitted very clearly three inches to the right of the median line. Over the chest generally, especially marked in the posterior portions, was heard coarse crepitant rhonchus. Vocal resonance normal. There was a good deal of cough, with bloody mucous expectoration, small in amount.

The treatment had consisted of rest in bed, opiates, alternating with purgatives, and counter-irritation to the chest.

Nov. 10. Hæmoptysis has continued, but is less copious; feels better and stronger; appetite improved; respiration more free; under right clavicle respiratory murmur very weak; expiration prolonged; heart sounds and voice, as before stated.

Dec. 28. Emaciation has made some little progress, since last visit, notwithstanding that she has been well fed, and has had stimulus such as she had habitually taken. Cough and expectoration less than at last note; pulse 100; respiration 40; auscultatory percussion dull over right clavicle. In infra-clavicular region cavernulous; respiration, pectoriloquy.

These symptoms continued until the 15th of January, 1855, when she died by exhaustion.

The *post-mortem* examination showed that there was tubercular infiltration of the superior portion of the upper lobe of the right lung. A small cavity, not larger than a pigeon's egg, existed at this part. With the exception of a scattering tubercle here and

there, the rest of this lung, as well as the left, was free from every morbid appearance, save the ordinary amount of bronchitis and considerable oedema. The heart was of natural size; the valves healthy; the organ itself overgrown with fat, a large quantity of which was found in the anterior mediastinum. The abdominal organs were healthy, excepting the liver, which was cirrhotic to the last degree—not more than half its natural size, almost of gristly hardness, and covered with the hob-nail irregularities characteristic of the disease. No dropsical effusion into the peritoneum.

Dr. Metcalfe remarked that cases have been frequently presented to the Society, in which the prophylactic power of alcohol against pulmonary tuberculosis has been exemplified. Knowing the habits of the patient from whom these specimens were taken, he was at a loss, either from the history of the case, or from the physical signs when she was first seen, to account for the symptoms under which she labored, especially for the hæmoptysis. The old attack of rheumatism and the known tendency in habitual drinkers to atheromatous degeneration of the aorta, led him to suspect disease of an aneurismal nature, or the possibility of cardiac valvular lesion, with fatty atrophy of the heart. It was only when his visit of the 28th Dec. was made, that he felt himself clear in the conviction that there was tubercular disease in question. The age of the patient, and her great obesity, had influenced him strongly against referring the hemorrhage to what is by all recognized as its infinitely most frequent source, the tuberculous dyscrasia.

It will not be without interest to note the great extent to which the liver had become cirrhotic, without the occurrence of normal dropsy.

DEWITT DISPENSARY, New York.

CUMBERLAND Co., N. J.—The annual meeting of this Society was held in Bridgeton, April 10, 1855.

The Society resolved to continue to purchase the *Transactions* of the American Medical Association. The report of the Delegates to the State Medical Society, read by Dr. ELMER, was highly approved for its useful hints and suggestions. A resolution was passed recommending the NEW JERSEY MEDICAL REPORTER to the support of the members. The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: Dr. J. H. HAMPTON, President; Dr. E. E. BATEMAN, Vice-President; Dr. J. B. POTTER, Secretary; Dr. B. R. BATEMAN, Treasurer.

MONMOUTH Co., N. J.—This Society held its annual meeting in Freehold, April 30, 1855. Fifteen members were present. Drs.

T. J. THOMASON, JOSEPH B. GOODNOUGH, W. C. LEWIS, and E. W. OWEN, were admitted to membership.

A resolution was presented by Dr. ENGLISH, which was adopted, recommending the NEW JERSEY MEDICAL REPORTER to the support of the members. Resolutions were adopted in respect to the memory of the late Dr. CHARLES C. BLAUVELT, who was a member of the Society. Dr. DAYTON made a verbal report of a case of Inversion of the Uterus. An interesting discussion arose on the question of the contagiousness of Smallpox.

The following officers were elected: Dr. WM. H. HUBBARD, President; J. E. ARROWSMITH, Vice-President; EDWARD TAYLOR, Treasurer; JOHN VOUGHT, Secretary; A. B. DAYTON, Reporter. *Delegates to State Medical Society.*—Drs. TAYLOR, WOODHULL, VOUGHT, and ARROWSMITH. *Delegates to American Medical Association.*—Drs. J. S. ENGLISH and ROBERT LAIRD.

MEDICAL ASSOCIATION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.—At a meeting, held on Tuesday, the 8th of May, the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: Dr. WM. JONES, President; Dr. JOSHUA RILEY, Vice-President; Dr. J. E. MORGAN, Treasurer; Dr. W. J. C. DUHAMEL, Secretary; Drs. HARVEY LINDSLEY, G. M. DOVE, J. BORROWS, N. YOUNG, and S. C. SMOOT, Counsellors. W. J. C. D., Sec.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES.

ART. IV.—*A Practical Treatise on Diseases Peculiar to Women. Illustrated by cases derived from Hospital and Private Practice.* By SAMUEL ASHWELL, M. D., &c. &c. Third American, from the third and revised London edition; pp. 528. Philadelphia: Blanchard & Lea, 1855.

OUR readers will, in common with ourselves, welcome a new edition of this eminently practical and useful work. The demand for a third edition is an evidence of professional appreciation of the merits of a book, which is so well known to most if not all our readers, that a notice of it, beyond a mere announcement, seems almost a work of supererogation.

The diseases peculiar to women are treated of in a very simple and practical manner under two heads: 1, The functional, and 2, the organic sexual diseases. Each section of the work is illustrated by appropriate cases, and some of our indolent readers, mere routinists (if we have any such), will be glad to learn that each is also accompanied by a set of formulæ, supposed to be applicable to the special disorder under consideration. To the scientific physician, these formulæ may be serviceable hints, way-marks, or keys to the author's text; to the routinist they will be rules, which, if he attempt to follow them strictly, may bring him into difficulty.

The getting up of the work is creditable to the enterprise of the publishers, though we would suggest that a book which will be so constantly referred to as *Ashwell*, should be bound in sheep rather than in muslin. We take pleasure in recommending the work to our readers.

ART. V.—*Pulmonary Consumption, Bronchitis, Asthma, Chronic Cough, and various Diseases of the Lungs, Air-Passages, Throat and Larynx successfully treated by Medicated Inhalations.* By ALFRED BEAUMONT MADDOCK, M. D. Illustrated with cases. Fifth edition. London: 1854.

WHAT the quadrature of the circle is to the mathematician, consumption has been to the therapist. This disease has here-

tofore baffled the skill of the most intelligent practitioner of the healing art; and though the clouds which have for so long a time enveloped it seem now to be breaking away, so firmly has the impression taken hold of the popular and even of the professional mind, that the disease is necessarily a fatal one, that he is almost regarded as a vagarist, who presumes to attempt its radical cure. Yet we have not the least doubt but the time is not very far distant when consumption will be considered as amenable to treatment, as are our intermittent fevers, or any other disease which yields to the power of the healing art.

We are the advocates of no exclusive system of medication in this, or in any other disease; but believe, fully, that the true principles of treatment include an intelligent and judicious application of the various plans proposed, such as an unbiassed, intelligent and educated physician alone can employ.

One of the most audacious humbugs of the day—as may be seen by advertisements in our daily papers—is the exclusive employment of inhalations of medicated vapors, or substances in the form of impalpable powder for the cure of tubercular affections. That these inhalations, in the hands of the scientific physician, may be serviceable as adjuncts in the treatment of the disease, we have no doubt; nay, we go further, and say that we fear that the profession has not given sufficient attention to this mode of alleviating the sufferings of those laboring under this class of diseases.

We know nothing of the author of the work before us. We have read his book we believe with considerable profit, though it is evident that he is an enthusiast in his particular line of treatment. He does not, however, ignore the rational principles which pathology teaches us should be the basis of our curative efforts, though we think that he hardly gives them sufficient prominence. Dr. Maddock is evidently a man of considerable intelligence, and whatever there is of good in inhalations of medicated vapors, he seems to have ability and enthusiasm enough to extract.

We are glad to learn that an American edition of the work is in course of preparation. It is a reprint of the London edition, brought out under the supervision of Dr. Charles Green, as editor. It will be worthy the attention of our readers, for they may learn from it what can be expected from this mode of treating consumption and other affections of the air-passages. On the issue of the reprint, we may have occasion to speak of the work again.

ART. VI.—*History of the American Medical Association, from its Organization, up to January, 1855.* By N. S. DAVIS, M. D., &c. &c. To which is appended Biographical Notices, with portraits, of the Presidents of the Association, and of the Author. Edited by S. W. Butler, M. D. Pp. 191. Philadelphia: Lip-pincott, Grambo & Co., 1855. Nine Portraits. Price \$1 50.

IN the above work our readers will recognize a series of papers that are now in course of publication in this journal. Thinking this history of sufficient value to put into a connected form, the editor has assumed the responsibility of publishing an edition, accompanied by steel-engraved portraits and biographies of the presidents of the association and of the author. It is earnestly hoped that this history of one of the most important social organizations in the land, will have the effect of awakening and keeping alive an interest in the prosperity of an association which has done so much already, and which is likely to do much more to elevate the profession which it represents.

ART. VII.—*Surgical Reports and Miscellaneous Papers on Medical Subjects.* By GEO. HAYWARD, M. D. Boston: Phillips, Sampson & Co. Pp. 452. New York: J. C. Derby, 1855.

THIS book is, as its name imports, a collection of miscellaneous papers, most of which have before been printed, written at different times, ranging over a period of twenty or more years. These papers are gathered into a neat octavo volume, and as they proceed from the pen of one of the first surgeons of our country, and treat upon subjects, as most of them do, of more than ordinary interest to medical men, we anticipate for them a wide circulation, and a hearty welcome from the profession. We would be glad to extend our notice of some of these papers, as we deem them well worthy of note, but we have not space to say much, and cannot trust ourselves to say little.

ART. VIII.—*An Outline of Medical Chemistry for the use of Students.* By B. HOWARD RAND, A. M., M. D. Pp. 259. Philadelphia: Lindsay & Blakiston, 1855.

THE object of this little volume is to teach in as concise a manner as possible; the *essential* principles of chemical science, and

to follow them out chiefly in their bearings upon Medical Chemistry. It aims to point out what is essential to the physician, while it would restrain him from wandering into those intricate and interminable investigations which alone can be approached by the thorough chemist. We commend the object and the volume.


WORKS IN PRESS.

THERE seems to be a growing activity in the matter of publishing books, in anticipation, we presume, of a large demand consequent on an increasing confidence in monetary affairs. The following are announced:—

By Blanchard & Lea: Rokitansky's *Pathological Anatomy*, and Lehman's *Physiological Chemistry*, each in two handsome octavo volumes, at a low price. Dr. La Roche on *Yellow Fever*; a new edition of Prof. Gross's important work on *Diseases of the Urinary Organs*; Prof. S. H. Dickson, of Charleston, on the *Elements of Medicine*; Dr. Tyler Smith on *Leucorrhœa*; Hoblyn's *Dictionary of the Terms used in Medicine and the Collateral Sciences*, a new and enlarged edition; Ludlow's *Manual of Examinations*, a new edition; Gross's *System of Surgery*; Sibson's *Medical Anatomy* to match MacLise's *Surgical Anatomy*; *The Microscope and its Revelations*, by Carpenter; *General Physiology*, by the same author; *Principles of Therapeutics*, by Stillé; *Surgical Diseases of Females*, by Browne; *Manual of the Practice of Medicine*, by Barlow; Toynbee's *Aural Surgery*; Graham's *Elements of Chemistry*, part 2; Todd & Bowman's *Physiological Anatomy and Physiology of Man*, concluding part; Curling on *Diseases of the Testis*, new edition; Longet's *Treatise on Physiology*; Peaslee's *Human Histology*.

By Lindsay & Blakiston: Jones's *Pathological and Clinical Observations on the Morbid Conditions of the Stomach*; Dixon's *Guide to the Practical Study of Diseases of the Eye*; Lee's *Pathological and Surgical Observations*; Garrod on the *Essentials of Materia Medica*, &c.; Canton's *Pathological and Surgical Observations*; Johnson on *Epidemic Diarrhœa and Cholera*.

By S. S. & W. Wood: *Diseases of the Rectum*, by Richard Quain, F.R.S., &c. *A series of Anatomical Plates*, by Jones Quain, M.D., &c. *The Anatomical Remembrancer*.

 Byrne on *Cholera*, will be noticed in our next.

EDITORIAL.

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

TO THE exclusion of much other matter of interest, we devote a large part of our space this month, to a full and reliable report of the proceedings of the American Medical Association at its eighth annual meeting in Philadelphia, on the 1-4 of May.

The occasion was one of very great interest to the large body of delegates who assembled from nearly every section of our wide extended land. It will be seen by reference to the minutes, that there were upwards of 500 delegates in attendance. This is one of the largest meetings of the Association that have ever been held, and we believe that it was regarded by those present as one of the best.

Ample provision was made by the profession of Philadelphia for the comfort and enjoyment of the delegates, though an error was committed in holding the sessions of the Association in a room that was so large that many of the members could not hear the voices of the speakers distinctly. There was nothing in the proceedings, that we witnessed, to mar the harmony and good feeling that should always characterize these meetings.

In our last we commented on the action of the Ohio State Medical Society respecting patents for surgical and dental instruments. The action of the Association on this matter was prompt and decisive, cutting off that society from representation in the Association, until the obnoxious resolution was expunged. The conduct of the delegates from the Ohio Medical Society, who were forward in support of this action, elicited commendation from every one. A pleasant feature of the meeting was the exhibition in the committee room, of the block contributed by the Association to the Washington Monument. It is an admirable piece of sculpture, and the association with a commendable spirit of appreciation of artistic worth, appropriated \$1,000 as a remuneration to the artist.

The arrangement for evening sociable parties was an excellent substitute for the former expensive public dinners, and we believe

gave satisfaction to all; and the afternoon excursions to the different public and private institutions and other places of interest in and around Philadelphia, were an agreeable addition to the sources of entertainment, giving the delegates excellent opportunities of forming the acquaintance of each other. The reception of the Association by the Mayor in Independence Hall, will be long remembered by all who were present on that interesting occasion.

We believe that representatives were present from all the States except Florida, Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas and California. The next meeting will be held in Detroit. A special invitation was extended to the profession in Canada to participate in the exercises of that meeting.

PROFESSOR OF SURGERY IN THE UNIVERSITY OF PA.

At a meeting of the Trustees of the University, held on Tuesday evening, May 1st, Dr. Henry H. Smith, of Philadelphia, was elected Prof. of Surgery, to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Prof. Gibson. The vote, we understand, stood eleven for Dr. Smith, nine for Dr. Brainard, of Illinois, and one blank.


Dr. Smith possesses qualifications which fit him in an eminent degree for the responsible post that he is called to fill, and we hope that his election will be conducive to the best interests of the University. It is not to be concealed, however, that both the faculty, and the profession generally, were not a little disappointed at the result of the election, as, so far as we could learn, professional sentiment had accorded the chair to Dr. Brainard. If we are rightly informed, the latter gentleman was the almost unanimous choice of the faculty, and was by them recommended to the Trustees. Personal considerations, however, and other influences, prevailed with the Trustees, rather than the wishes of the faculty.


We mention these facts in order that we may enter our protest against the growing propensity that Boards of Trustees have evinced, of late, to trample on the rights of faculties, and not out of opposition to the successful candidate. Personal considerations should have *nothing to do* with such elections, but the candidate whose professional and moral fitness commend him, should be the uniform choice of the Trustees, who should, in the absence of the

only just system of election, viz: public concurs—ever have a regard to the wishes of faculties.

Dr. Smith has gone to Europe, preparatory, we suppose, to assuming the duties of his chair, which, we doubt not he will discharge with honor to himself, and to the distinguished school with which he is connected. We can bear testimony to his ability as an instructor, and believe he will give full satisfaction as a lecturer.

Gum Mezquite.—In our April number, we copied an article on this native gum, which is proposed as a substitute for Gum Arabic. We have recently received a specimen of the gum from Dr. G. E. Bomford, of Fort Smith, Ark. It has very much the appearance of the Gum Senegal of the shops, and with a little care in selecting the best portions, there is no doubt but it would make a very fair substitute for the foreign gums. It is represented to exist in inexhaustible quantities on the vast plains that lie eastward of the Rocky Mountain range, and will probably be a valuable source of revenue to the embryotic states and territories of those regions. We remember some years ago to have heard a Cherokee hunter speak of the great abundance and variety of a species of "wild plum" which grew on those plains, and think it probable that this gum is the product of the tree he attempted to describe to us.

 We intended to have resumed the articles on the History of the American Medical Association in this number, but the minutes of the eighth annual meeting occupy so large an amount of space, that we are compelled to postpone the next article, with the portrait of Dr. Wellford, to the July number.

 We have received many flattering testimonials of late, in addition to those formerly received, of appreciation of our labors. The prosperity and consequent usefulness of the REPORTER depend quite as much on our friends as on ourselves.

To Correspondents.—We have articles on hand from "Member of Am. Med. Association," D. W. Maull, M. D., A. Hanton, M. D., J. B. Phillips, M. D., Heman Allen, M. D., R. Douglass, M. D., and C. H. Cleveland, M. D., which will appear in due time. Dr. J. Henry Clark's article on Puerperal Fever was put in type for this number, but we were compelled to leave it out.

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SESSION OF 1855-56.

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The Legislature of New York having passed the Anatomical Bill, the Students will be furnished with ample facilities for the study of this department.

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3. *A Medical Clinique* every Wednesday, from 2½ to 3½ P. M., by Prof. METCALFE. Patients laboring under diseases of the lungs, heart, &c., are presented at this Clinique, and full opportunity is given to the Students for the study of physical diagnosis, &c.

4. *A Surgical Clinique, with the Diseases of the Genito-Urinary Organs*, every Wednesday, from 3½ to 4½ P. M., by Prof. VAN BUREN. Besides its general surgical advantages, this Clinique presents ample opportunity for the study of syphilitic diseases, strictures, &c.

5. *A Surgical Clinique* every Saturday, from 11 A. M. to 1 o'clock P. M., by Prof. POST. During the session just closed, besides various operations of importance, Prof. Post performed in this Clinique, before his Class, lithotomy fifteen times, and lithotomy once, with entire success.

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NEW YORK, April 5, 1855.

LOUIS BAUER, M. D.,

PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON (BERLIN); M. R. C. S. ENGLAND; CORRESPONDING FELLOW OF THE MEDICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON, AND FELLOW OF THE PATHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, N. Y.; FORMERLY SURGEON OF THE ROYAL ORTHOPEDIC INSTITUTION, MANCHESTER, GREAT BRITAIN, ETC.,

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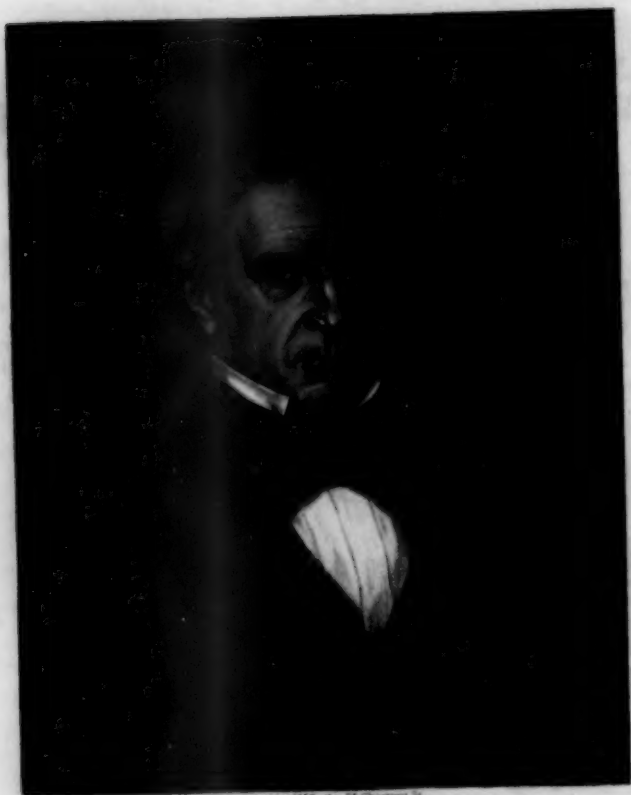
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PROFESSOR OF MATERIA MEDICA & THERAPEUTICS
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For The New York Medical Reporter